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GRANTS IN AID

Final Report of the Departmental Committee on Local Taxation: England and Wales. Cd. 7315. 1s.

The case for the drastic reform of local taxation is once more authoritatively stated in the early part of this report. The main grievances of the ratepayer may be summed up under three heads. First, the total expenditure on "semi-national" services (viz., Education, Poor Relief, Lunatics, Police, Main Roads, and Sanitary Officers) has increased from 20·5 millions in 1891–2 to 54·9 millions in 1911–12, while the Government subventions have increased only from 8·4 to 21·3 millions, the net amount to be met from rates thus being 12·1 millions in 1891–2 and 33·6 millions in 1911–12. The proportion of the expenditure met by Government grants has remained more or less stationary at about 40 per cent. of the whole, the tendency in recent years being to a decline. The second main grievance is the alleged inequality of the rating system as between individuals within the same area. The person whose expenditure on rent is an important portion of his business outlay (whether he is a farmer or a shopkeeper) claims that he is unjustly treated as opposed to those who spend proportionately less on rent. On the other hand, the Single Taxer alleges that inequality takes the form of allowing the owner of land to escape relatively lightly (to say the least) as compared with all the rest of the community. The third main grievance is the injustice perpetrated by compelling districts with a relatively low rateable value to perform proportionately as large a share of the "semi-national" services as richer areas—in many cases a proportionately larger share.

A clear summary is given of the history of that complicated hybrid the Assigned Revenues System. Of the Assigned Revenues in 1911–12 3·5 millions had become stereotyped—that is to say, the local authorities received a fixed grant—and 3·7 millions remained variable. The Committee recommend the complete abolition of the Assigned Revenues system. We are next reminded of the classification of grants into (1) the "Allocated Grant" system—*i.e.*, grants for specified branches of a service, such as Union officers and salaries of teachers in Poor Law schools; (2) the "Block Grant" system—*i.e.*, in respect of a whole service; and it is further pointed out that there are essential differences in the two methods of calculating payment—viz., (1) so much per unit of service (*e.g.*, per child in attendance, or per pauper lunatic), (2) a definite percentage of the expenditure on the service or some part of it.

Having thus cleared the ground by the enunciation of general principles, the Committee proceed to consider their application to the various services. There are at present at least nine distinct grants for elementary education. Two are based on the unit of attendance, one on the unit of attendance plus an amount varying in inverse ratio to the produce of a penny rate per child, two on the special claims of poor or thinly populated areas, the remaining four being in respect of special subjects, schools or services. The rateable value per child varies in the different areas from 52s. to 150s. The Committee recommend a single Elementary Education Block Grant for the whole area of each authority of 36s. per child, plus two-fifths of the total net expenditure less the produce of a 7d. rate (with exceptions in certain cases). It is estimated that a grant on this basis would in 1911–12 have amounted to £13,700,000, or about 2 millions more than the total of the actual grants. This will still leave the elementary education rates of areas such as Ebbw Vale, Tottenham, West Ham, and Barry at over two shillings; but the Committee feel that these exceptional cases can only be dealt with by a revision of the rateable areas. As regards Higher Education, the Committee state that, in their view, the time has not yet come for the introduction of the Block Grant system or any fundamental revision of the prevailing grants. They consider that "in the present unsettled state of affairs" in connection with the Poor Law system the best course is to be content with the removal of some of the more serious faults of the prevailing system. Thus the existing fixed grant for Union Officers is to become a grant equal to 60 per cent. of expenditure on their salaries, the amount to be fixed for seven years. The 4s. grant for lunatics in asylums is to be increased to 6s. The Poor Law grants are to be increased in all from 2 to 3·2 millions. The Police grant is to become a simple grant of one-half of the total expenditure, instead of one-half of the cost of pay and clothing and £300,000 for pensions. Roads are to be classified by the Road Board in counties into main, county and district, and in county boroughs and London into main roads and streets. One-half of the cost of main and one-quarter of the cost of county roads in counties are to be met by the Exchequer; while the grant per mile for main roads in the large towns is to be equal to the grant per mile for the main roads of the adjacent county. The total grant for main roads is estimated at £1,800,000 and for county roads at £600,000. The Committee consider that the Minority Report of the Poor Law Commission's plan of Public Health grants based on a standard average Health Rate (similar to the proposed standard average Education Rate) is impracticable owing to the complications involved. They propose that the present grant for salaries of sanitary officers be withdrawn and that a grant be made in respect of public health administration at the rate of 9d. per head of population in rural and 6d. in urban districts. The amount (which will at first be equivalent to a million for the whole country) is to be fixed from one census to another. All grants are to be conditional on efficient administration and subject to a general power of reduction by a supervising Government Department. The grant under the Agricultura]

Rates Act is to be withdrawn (though the differential levy on agricultural land is to remain), the rural areas being compensated under the general scheme through the special grants for small schools and county roads, and the extra 3d. which they will receive for public health per head of population as compared with towns.

The total financial effect of the Committee's recommendations will be to increase the grants to local authorities (on the 1911–12 basis) by £4,700,000. Some local authorities will fare worse under the proposed than under the existing system. Temporary special subventions are proposed in order to mitigate the effects of reductions of the total amount of the grants in such cases.

The majority of the Committee direct vigorous criticism upon the schemes and statements of enthusiastic land taxers. The majority will not countenance any distinct rating of site values. But a powerful minority advocate that site values should be ascertained separately from the values of buildings and improvements, and that (*a*) one-tenth of the total amount required out of the rates should be levied on the basis of site value, (*b*) one-half of any increase in the total rates in any year after the first imposition of a site value rate should be levied upon the basis of site value and the remaining half on the basis of the (total) assessable value. The whole Committee unite in recommending that the duty of preparing valuations for rating purposes be placed upon the Land Valuation Office; that the collection of all rates in urban districts and boroughs be handed over to the council; that the commissions allowed to the landlords of compounding tenants be substantially reduced; and that where compounding obtains it should be compulsory to show the amount of the rates in a rent book. The proposal for a local income tax is discussed and rejected. Proposals for local taxes on amusements and advertisements are mentioned without comment. With regard to inequalities of rates between Local Government Areas the Committee point out that *differences* of rates are far from representing *inequalities* in all cases. They state that "the proposals which have been laid before us for the grouping of economically connected areas solely for rating purposes do not appear to us to present appreciably fewer difficulties than the present method of meeting such cases by boundary extensions, and they would in most cases be far less effective in removing inequalities." While the Committee "are unable to recommend any general scheme of compulsory combination," they suggest "that steps be taken to reduce the excessive cost of the present procedure for the extension of urban boundaries" and "that, so far as administrative convenience may allow, the county and county borough be made the area of administration and rating for all semi-national services."

INDIAN FINANCE AND CURRENCY

Royal Commission on Indian Finance and Currency. Final Report, Cd. 7236, 9d. Minutes of Evidence, Vol. I., Cd. 7069, 2s. 10d. Vol. II., Cd. 7237, 1s. 4d. Appendices, Vol. I., Cd. 7070, 2s. 10d.; Vol. II., Cd. 7071, 2s. 5d.; Vol. III., Cd. 7238, 1s. 2d. Index, Cd. 7239, 9d.

The Royal Commission was appointed to enquire into the management of the balances of the Government of India, the sale of Council drafts, the Gold Standard and Paper Currency Reserves, the maintenance of the exchange value of the rupee, and the financial organisation of the India Office. They examined fifteen official witnesses, fourteen representatives of Indian commercial, financial, and banking interests, three representatives of English banks, and Mr. Moreton Frewen. The appendices consist of official memoranda on financial procedure, statistics relating to currency, etc., information on Indian banking, and statements submitted by persons who could not appear before the Commission. Subject to certain reservations by Sir James Begbie, secretary and treasurer of the Bank of Bombay, who is opposed to a token currency and in favour of a gold currency, the Commissioners are unanimous in their report.

Currency and financial problems are always difficult, and the man who professes to have an easy and universal solution may be set down as a crank or an impostor. Obviously we cannot here criticise or even analyse all the great mass of information put before us; that will occupy for many months the bankers and traders whose daily business brings them into close touch with Indian financial questions. We can only summarise the leading features of one of the most lucid reports which it has ever been our fortune to read. Whoever drafted it should certainly take in hand that treatise on modern finance for which we have long been waiting.

For the purpose of restoring the exchange value of the rupee the Indian mints were closed in 1893 to the unrestricted coinage of silver, and the monometallic silver currency system of India virtually came to an end. This caused a rise, and in 1898 the Government were in a position to offer rupees for gold at the rate of 15 rupees per £ sterling. The Indian Currency Committee of 1898 decided against the reopening of the mints and in favour of fixing the rupee at 1s. 4d., and these recommendations were adopted by the Secretary of State and the Government of India. The sovereign was made legal tender in India, and the establishment of a gold currency was taken as the end in view. An attempt was made to force sovereigns into circulation with unfavourable results, and both notes and sovereigns went to a discount. "Special demands for rupees, owing to famine conditions, and the inadequacy of the supplies of the favourite circulating medium combined to aggravate the general monetary stringency." The coinage of rupees on a large scale was resumed in 1900. A special reserve from the profits on the coinage of rupees was formed to maintain the gold standard, and was remitted to London in the form of gold for investment in securities; in 1906 the Gold Standard Reserve was formed, consisting partly of securities in London and partly of rupees in India, the latter to meet special demands for currency. Meanwhile part of the Paper Currency Reserve had been shipped to London in gold. Soon it was seen that the practice of shipping gold to India on the account of individuals, and of reshipping it back to London on Government account for the Reserves was needlessly expensive. The practice of selling Council Drafts for gold in London was introduced in 1898, and the Government will sell Council Bills without limit at 1s. 4$\frac{1}{32}$d.; these are bought by traders having to make remittances to India, and met out of Government balances, rupees from the Paper Currency Reserve, and fresh coinage, if necessary. The accumulation of coinage profits in a period of good trade led to the proposal in 1907 that one-half of them should be devoted to railway purposes, but the crisis of 1907–8 caused a serious fall in exchange and a heavy withdrawal from the reserves, and the proposal was dropped. The present currency system in India is that known as the "gold exchange standard," virtually the same as those of Russia, Holland, Japan, and Austria-Hungary. The internal circulation is a token coinage of silver and paper, supported for international purposes by the Gold Standard Reserve. The Commissioners discuss at length the suggestion that there should be substituted an actual gold standard based on a gold currency for internal circulation, as in the United Kingdom, and decide in the negative. They point out that the ability of countries like the United Kingdom and Germany "to meet at all times their immediate foreign indebtedness depends on the central reserves of the banks of these countries, on the influence exerted by these banks on the other constituents of the money market, and on their bank rate policy," and not at all on the amount of gold in active circulation. A gold coinage is always wasteful.

The Gold Standard Reserve is required to meet the "home charges" when drafts cannot be freely sold and also "to liquidate an unfavourable balance of trade to the extent necessary to prevent exchange from falling below specie point." The Government propose to raise this Reserve to £25,000,000; but the Commissioners think this insufficient and further recommend that half the Reserve, and at least £15,000,000, should be held in gold. The net circulation of rupee notes in India was 54·92 crores of rupees on the average of 1912–13. Against this issue is held an equivalent amount

in the Paper Currency Reserve, 20 per cent. being in securities and the rest in gold and silver. This system is based on our Bank Charter Act, the rigidity of which has made our currency inelastic; that elasticity has been restored in our case by the use of cheques. The Commissioners recommend that the Indian paper currency should be made more elastic by increasing the fiduciary portion of the Reserve ultimately to the amount of the notes held by the Government plus one-third of the net circulation. The remainder of the Reserve should be either permanently invested or temporarily loaned in England or to the Indian banks. As the first criterion of a reserve is that it should be easily realisable, this will be one of the most contested of the Commission's proposals. The gold part of this Reserve should be held in London for the purchase of silver.

The aggregate Government balances necessary are £4,000,000 in London and £12,000,000 in India, but actually there was held on March 31st, 1913, £8,783,970 in London and £19,293,131 in India. These excesses are due to increasing revenue and to short spending both on current and on capital account. The Indian Budget has been described as a "gamble in rain," and better estimating would be possible if the financial year were changed from April 1st to November 1st or January 1st, when the results of the monsoon were known. That cautious budgeting means unnecessary taxation is absurd. Revenue surpluses should be transferred to London either for investment or to pay off debt.

The Indian balances are held in the local treasuries instead of in the banks, thus increasing the periodical financial stringency, since taxation demands coincide with the times of busiest trade. The authorities should, therefore, tentatively proceed to deposit surplus balances in the presidency banks or make loans from the Paper Currency Reserve, providing that nothing should be done to hamper the transmission of the necessary funds to London at favourable terms of exchange. The amount of the annual rupee loans in India should be increased as much as possible, and if loans from surpluses were made to the banks to counteract the winter and spring stringency, the banks would probably be ready to take up more Government paper in the summer.

The Secretary of State sells in London Council Drafts on India primarily to provide the funds required to meet home charges and capital expenditure (about £26,000,000 in all). These drafts are bought by firms who have to make remittances to India, as the "balance of trade" is generally in favour of that country. The Commissioners are opposed to the view that Government should supply up to the limit of their power the demand of trade for funds in India. "The interests of trade are, indeed, of high importance, but it is not the business of Government to favour trade at the expense of general revenues." "While, in consequence of recurring surpluses over budget estimates, the London balance has been abnormally high for the last few years, no money has been brought home which has not been used or will not be used for Indian Government requirements in the United Kingdom." A number of detailed proposals are made for amendments as to the placing of the balances, the relations of the India Office to the Bank of England, and the organisation of the Finance Committee of the India Council. The Commissioners suggest that an expert committee should be appointed to examine the suggestion that a State or Central Bank should be established in India, and append a special memorandum by Mr. J. M. Keynes on the constitution and functions of such a bank.

CRIME AND LITIGATION

Judicial Statistics, England and Wales, 1912. Part I.: Criminal Statistics. Cd. 7282. 1s. 6d. Part II.: Civil Judicial Statistics. Cd. 7267. 2s.

Judicial Statistics of Scotland for the year 1912. Cd. 7164. 1s. 4d.

There was an increase in crime in 1912. The number of persons tried in England and Wales both for indictable offences (67,530 persons) and for non-indictable offences (717,383 persons) was higher than for any year since 1908; and the number of persons charged in Scotland (162,886) also exceeded the figures for the three previous years. There was a marked increase in offences connected with drunkenness. The persons proceeded against for this offence in Scotland numbered 87,937 in 1911, and 92,443 in 1912; while the corresponding figures for England and Wales are 186,182 for 1911, and 197,936 for 1912. Offences against the Education Acts increased by nearly 6,000 in England and Wales to 42,584. This increase is remarkable as following on a steady decline for a number of years. It may perhaps be attributed in part to the increase in the temptation to employ children illegally brought about by the flourishing state of trade and consequent shortage of children's labour. Offences against the Game Laws appear to be steadily declining. There is a remarkable drop from 2,032 (in 1911) to 1,640 (in 1912) in the number of persons tried for offences against the Weights and Measures Act. Can this be due to the fact that when the Shops Act came into operation in 1912 many towns placed the duty of enforcing it upon Weights and Measures Inspectors, who consequently had less time in which to pay attention to their proper duties? The Employment of Children Acts are the occasion of a considerably larger number of offences (1,748) than either the Factory Acts or the Mines Acts—in spite of the fact that the inspectorate under the two latter sets of Acts is far more efficient. In the period 1893–7 there were only three prosecutions for blasphemy, only four in 1898–1902, and none in 1903–7. But between 1908 and 1912 it was thought necessary to prosecute blasphemers in no fewer than eleven cases. The number of riot cases in 1911 and 1912 (85 and 66) was much larger than in any year since 1893 (the year of a great miners' strike).

The relation between crime and fluctuations both of employment and of prices is a subject of great statistical interest. The following table is compiled from the English and Scottish Judicial Statistics for 1912, together with the Trade Union Unemployment Percentage. It will be noted that, whereas an improvement in the labour market is almost invariably followed by a decline in offences against property, begging, and prosecutions for failure to maintain dependants, it is also with equal regularity accompanied by an increase in drunkenness.

Year	Trade Union Unemployment Percentage.	Persons Tried (000's omitted).						Percentage of persons fined who were imprisoned for failure to pay.	
		England and Wales.				Scotland.			
		Offences against Property.	Begging.	Neglecting to maintain family.	Drunkenness.	Offences against Property.	Drunkenness and Breach of Peace.	England and Wales.	Scotland.
1893	7·5	51·2	16·8	3·1	168·9	12·5	—	18·90	—
1894	6·9	50·3	19·2	2·9	178·7	12·2	—	18·30	—
1895	5·8	45·0	15·7	2·5	169·3	11·5	—	16·84	—
1896	3·3	44·9	16·9	2·5	187·3	11·7	—	16·54	—
1897	3·3	44·8	15·0	2·6	193·3	11·8	100·0	15·56	—
1898	2·8	46·4	15·5	2·9	202·5	11·9	103·6	15·41	—
1899	2·0	44·5	12·7	2·9	214·3	12·2	112·4	14·88	—
1900	2·5	47·8	11·3	2·7	204·3	13·6	108·1	14·73	—
1901	3·3	49·1	14·5	2·8	210·3	14·0	108·6	15·78	—
1902	4·6	50·2	16·2	2·8	209·9	13·5	105·4	16·97	—
1903	4·7	51·0	19·3	3·2	230·2	13·8	95·7	18·76	49·5
1904	6·0	52·6	23·0	3·2	227·4	14·8	92·0	19·55	47·6
1905	5·0	53·8	26·4	3·3	219·3	14·8	94·8	19·87	49·5
1906	3·6	51·3	25·0	3·1	211·5	13·5	105·5	19·00	48·6
1907	3·7	53·8	23·0	3·0	210·0	14·1	109·7	18·54	47·2
1908	7·8	59·6	27·1	3·3	202·1	15·7	103·2	19·54	47·9
1909	7·7	58·6	32·3	3·1	182·4	15·1	81·3	20·15	47·0
1910	4·7	57·6	33·3	3·0	175·4	14·0	80·1	19·40	43·7
1911	3·0	53·5	31·5	2·9	185·4	13·2	87·9	18·15	42·4
1912	3·2	58·5	26·9	2·9	197·9	14·7	92·4	17·12	41·1

The reports contain important statistics bearing on the two principal reforms dealt with in Mr. McKenna's Criminal Administration Bill—viz., the introduction of arrangements for allowing fines to be paid by instalments, and the treatment of youthful offenders. The number of persons sentenced to pay fines during 1912 was 477,132 in England and Wales and 88,924 in Scotland. Of these, 17·12 per cent. (or 81,669) in England and Wales and 41 per cent. (or 36,661) in Scotland were imprisoned on account of failure to pay. The 81,669 persons thus imprisoned in England formed over half of the total number (155,198) of persons imprisoned.

In Scotland less than 9,000 persons were imprisoned other than those who went to prison because they could not pay a fine. Thus over four-fifths of the prisoners in Scotland are incarcerated solely because of their poverty. It will be noted that the last column of the table given above shows that the number of persons fined and who go to prison in default clearly tends to vary in the same direction as the unemployment percentage. But, in spite of the boom in trade during the period 1910–12, the percentage of incarcerations in England and Wales has remained at a considerably higher level than that which obtained during the boom of 1896–1901. This represents a very serious state of things, and Mr. McKenna's Bill has come none too soon to deal with it. The Commissioners of the Scottish Department of Prisons and Judicial Statistics draw special attention to the very high percentage of incarcerations of persons who are fined in Scotland. They state that the figures appear "to indicate that the fines in Scotland are as a rule excessive. . . . If greater care were taken to assess fines on a basis which would bring them within the reach of offenders, the number going to prison in default would be greatly reduced, and whilst the total amount received from fines, most of which goes in aid of local rates, might perhaps be less, the saving to the State in the cost of imprisonment, which falls on the Government, would be considerable"—to say nothing of the human side of the problem!

The total number of juvenile offenders in England and Wales during 1912 was 39,348, of whom 21,177 were children under 14 and 2,135 girls. Practically all of these were tried before juvenile courts. Only 39 per cent. of the persons tried before these courts were convicted, while in 47 per cent. of the cases an order was made without conviction. In 4,537 cases the youthful defendants were placed under the supervision of probation officers; but there were in addition 3,249 cases of persons aged over 16 and under 21, and 3,270 cases of persons aged over 21, who were placed under similar supervision. The number of orders for placing persons under the supervision of Probation Officers during the five years since the Probation of Offenders Acts came into operation has been as follows: 1908, 8,023; 1909, 8,962; 1910, 10,217; 1911, 9,516; 1912, 11,193. Five hundred and thirty-one persons were admitted into Borstal institutions in 1912, including 439 persons not previously convicted.

There has been much comment of late upon the decline of litigation. The total number of proceedings begun in all the English and Welsh courts of first instance declined from 1,420,129 in 1911 to 1,367,078 in 1912, the annual average for the years 1908–1912 being 1,454,743·6. There is no summary of the figures relating to all classes of courts in Scotland; but there appears to be a fairly steady decline of the judicial business of all the courts with the exception of the Justice of the Peace Small Debt Court, where there was an increase in actions begun from 24,944 to 29,952. The decline in the business of the English courts affected the High Court, the County Court, and the Courts of Record alike. In the introduction to the Report on Civil Judicial Statistics the decline is attributed to good trade, to the introduction into statutes of administrative methods of settling disputes, to the growth of arbitration in one form or another, and to the decline of the credit system in retail business. So long as the British judicial system remains what it is, the public should be suspicious of the lawyers' objections to the development of extra-judicial methods of settling disputes in connection with social legislation. The growth of such procedure and of arbitration is tantamount to a confession of failure on the part of the legal profession and of Parliament to provide cheap, speedy, and satisfactory justice. The Divorce Court alone of all the English Courts is steadily increasing its work. The number of divorce and matrimonial proceedings commenced in this court amounted to 1,159 in 1912. There was an increase of 18·32 per cent. in the annual average number of petitions for divorce lodged by wives during 1908–12 as against the period 1903–7. The increase in the annual average number of petitions lodged by husbands was only 3·64 per cent.

NAVAL FINANCE

Naval Estimates for 1914–15. H. of C. 134. 3s. 8d. See also other papers on Navy in Classified List.

Mr. Churchill's activities at the Admiralty have not yet extended to a very necessary revision of the form in which the Navy Estimates are presented. The information contained in this bulky document of three hundred pages is badly arranged. It is hardly possible to get from it any clear idea of what is being done by the largest of our spending departments. We have, it is true, an "Explanatory Statement," issued a few days before the main Estimates, but this White Paper of 17 pages is taken up for by far the greater part with a statement of work done in the past year, leaving less than one page of explanation for the present Estimates. In the Estimates themselves four pages alone are devoted to a so-called "Explanation of Differences," which amounts to little more than a list of the main headings under which increases and decreases in expenditure are proposed. As to the reason for the changes, we have no guide whatever beyond vague references to increase in prices and higher charges due to accelerated construction. In Germany even, where parliamentary control in general is weak enough, the Navy Estimates, in addition to being gone through in detail by the Budget Commission, are presented in such a form that every double page contains on the one side a comparison between the Estimates for the present and coming year, and on the other a detailed explanation of all variations. To a lesser extent the same method of presentation is employed in our own Navy Appropriation Accounts, issued roughly twelve months after the year with which they deal. What is possible in the German Estimates and what is possible in the Appropriation Accounts could surely be done with little extra trouble in the Estimates themselves.

The sum demanded this year from Parliament is £51,550,000. This does not indicate the total gross amount to be spent on the Navy, which is reached by the addition of "Appropriations in Aid" to the extent of £2,023,261, obtained for the greater part from the sale of old stores, obsolete ships, etc. Under the heading of Appropriations in Aid are also the contributions from Colonial Governments, which for the coming year are estimated at the not very impressive figure of £374,850, more than one-third of which comes from India. For some reason which remains unexplained, the contributions in kind—that is to say, the vessels building for the Australian Government and the *Malaya*, the gift of the Malay States—are not mentioned anywhere in the Estimates. The net Estimates of expenditure are reached by various other additions and subtractions performed upon this gross sum of £53,573,261. First of all is subtracted the sum of £1,311,558 set aside for the payment of annuities under the Naval Works Acts, a dead weight on the Naval Budget resulting from the earlier Conservative policy of borrowing for construction. Further, there must be added the sum of £40,000, the value of stores to be withdrawn from stock without replacement, and £404,076, the estimated expenditure on behalf of naval services by other departments. The result is a net figure for naval expenditure of £52,705,779. If from this figure, instead of from the gross total, as is done in the Estimates, we subtract again the Appropriations in Aid, we get a total of some fifty million pounds, a truer indication of the net cost of the Navy than the Parliamentary grant. But even then this net cost is deceptive for purposes of comparison with the cost of the Navy in other countries, since the English Estimates contain many items which do not figure under the Navy Estimates of other Powers. In Germany, for instance, there is no expenditure at all for half-pay, pensions, superannuation, etc. If these three "non-effective votes," amounting to three million pounds, are subtracted, our own expenditure falls to forty-seven million. In Germany, too, the cost of coast guards (some £200,000 in our own case) and of steamship subsidies (some £150,000), to say nothing of many other minor items, are not included under the naval vote. Nor, again, is there any expenditure on Naval Reserve (in our case about £500,000). There is, of course, an enor-

mous difference in the wage bill, although perhaps this should not be taken into account, since our own long-service system gives us the great advantage of better trained men. In any case, however, it is clear that the crude figures, when used as they often are for comparison with the naval expenditure of Continental Powers, are misleading.

Expenditure, as usual, is divided under 15 votes: wages; food and clothing; medical service; civilians in fleet service (a new vote taking the place of martial law, which has been transferred to miscellaneous); education; scientific services; naval reserves; shipbuilding, repairs, and maintenance; armaments; works and buildings; miscellaneous; Admiralty; and the three "non-effective" votes, half-pay, pensions, compensation and superannuation. Under each vote we have enormously elaborate statistics of wages, giving the rate of pay and the totals expended on every grade and on every type of employee and workman. But even then, apart from the payment of active ratings under the first vote, the expenditure on wages is scattered throughout all the votes and is never collected into one summary table, nor is there any table giving the total number of naval employees, except that for active ratings in the extra "Vote A." Apart from the wage statistics the remaining information is startlingly meagre. In the nine pages, for instance, devoted to the food and clothing vote the cost of food for provisioning the fleet and for other naval departments is given in two lines as a lump sum! Even if the Admiralty cannot give us details of the kind of provisions and clothing it buys, it might at least follow the example of the War Office and give the approximate cost of clothing per head. It might, too, go one step further and give the approximate cost of food per head. The Admiralty, too, has not even followed the War Office in rearranging the total expenditure so as to give the approximate total annual cost per head for officers and men. By far the largest vote is for maintenance, shipbuilding and repairs (about £25,000,000). Here, too, no details of expenditure are given, except for wages. Even fuels of all kinds, coal, patent fuel, and oil, are lumped together in one grand total. In one instance only, in the programme of shipbuilding work, do we get a clear and well-arranged statement. Here we have figures for the original, revised, and actual expenditure on hulls, machinery, gun mountings, etc.; and these are again divided according to the labour, materials, and contract work on each vessel. The expenditure in respect of employers' contributions under the Insurance Act can only be obtained by adding together the scattered items under the various votes. In the Appropriation Accounts for 1912–13, on the other hand, they are collected into one summary table, and show a total amount of £62,327 (£50,482 for health insurance, £11,845 for unemployment).

The Supplementary Estimate for the Navy, asking for an additional £2,500,000 on the Estimates voted a year ago, contains nothing more than a statement of votes under which extra expenditure has been incurred, together with a table showing the original Estimates, the Appropriations in Aid, and the revised Estimates. The explanation for the revision (which was due largely to acceleration in building) was left to be made in the House of Commons itself. Issued about the same time as the Estimates is a valuable annual statement known as the Dickenson Report, "showing the fleets of the six Great Powers, together with the United States and Japan." A full list is given of war vessels of every type, built and building, under twenty years of age, together with dates of launching and completion, with displacement, horse-power and armament. This White Paper costs 7½d., and is as useful as many expensive naval annuals. Incidentally, it fails to explain what standard is taken for the measurement of displacement. German authorities accuse us of having altered our method of measurement at the introduction of the Dreadnought so as to give these vessels a displacement some 2,000 lower than they would be if measured by the standard used abroad and used, too, in England for all earlier vessels. How far this is true it is impossible to say, since the Admiralty is apparently determined to ignore the whole matter.

THE DOMINIONS COMMISSION

Royal Commission on the Natural Resources, Trade, and Legislation of Certain Portions of His Majesty's Dominions: Second Interim Report. Cd. 7210. 1s.

Having visited Australia and New Zealand and heard evidence in London, the Commission now reports as to the relations between the United Kingdom and those two Dominions. About 50 per cent. of the imports of Australia are of British origin, about 11 per cent. come from other portions of the Empire, and about 39 per cent. are produced in foreign countries; the destination of exports is about 40 per cent. to the United Kingdom, 21 per cent. to the rest of the Empire, and 39 per cent. to foreign countries. For New Zealand the figures are: shipments from the United Kingdom about 60 per cent., from the rest of the Empire about 22 per cent., from foreign countries about 18 per cent.; exports to United Kingdom 77·5 per cent., to rest of Empire 17 per cent., to foreign countries 5·3 per cent. Australasia requires emigrants fitted for agricultural and mining work, the chief qualifications being youth and adaptability. Youths between 16 and 24 are all "highly desirable," and "the town-bred man, still more the town-bred youth, often finds his feet more quickly in his new social conditions and environment than does the rustic." Such persons require some training before going out and should have a short period on a Government training farm in the United Kingdom, partly supported by the Dominions; "it would be sufficient to train intending migrants to handle horses and milk cows, and possibly to accustom them to the class of machinery and implements in use on farms abroad." Artisans are not at present required. There is a deficiency of female workers, but the Commissioners find it "difficult to endorse the prevalent view that there is a considerable surplus of women in the United Kingdom suitable for migration to the Dominions." Commenting on the large proportion of "surplus women" who are over 40 years of age, they "arrive at a conclusion which has been reached by others on less serious data—viz., that the number of old women in this country is excessive." The defective system of recruiting migrants in the United Kingdom leads to much misrepresentation.

Improvement of communication between the United Kingdom and Australasia depends upon the building of larger ships, and this in turn depends upon the provision of first-class harbours with a working depth of not less than 40 feet. Except at Sydney, Hobart, Wellington, and Auckland, the Australasian harbours "fall considerably below the standard"; improvement works at Port Philip are, however, in progress. Speedier mails are a necessity, and new routes instead of the present one by the Suez Canal require consideration. Detailed proposals are also made for reducing the cable rates, which the Commission regards as too high. The Commissioners also allude to freight discrimination by British lines in favour of Hamburg against British ports, but they do not seem to see that, as the Hamburg rates have to be reduced to meet German competition, the proper line of attack is the rates from the United Kingdom. The State railways in these Dominions are a "sound reproductive asset," but in Australia differences of gauge hamper trade.

The general discussion of natural resources is reserved for the final report, but the Commissioners urge the scientific investigation of the supply of artesian water in Australia. They also regard Australia as a suitable country for cotton-growing. The British Cotton-Growing Association is co-operating with the Government in organising suitable experiments and in supplying seed, machinery, etc. The chief difficulty is the scarcity of labour for cotton-picking; but, as in Texas three-quarters of the work is done by white labour, the disadvantage might be got over, partly by better co-operation among the small cotton-growers, partly by the introduction of Maltese immigrants. The bulk-handling of wheat through elevators is also recommended instead of the present more expensive system of packing it in bags.

Finally, it is urged that a conference of Imperial statisticians might lead to more uniform and, therefore, more useful statistics of trade within the Empire.

FOREIGN PROFIT-SHARING SCHEMES

Report on Profit-sharing and Labour Copartnership Abroad. Cd. 7283. 8½d.

When the Board of Trade set out to prepare this report it discovered that "no other country had issued an official report on profit-sharing, and it became necessary to supplement the private publications on the subject by addressing enquiries to H.M. Representatives in the various foreign countries and to the Governments of the British dominions." The reports on France, Germany, and Switzerland are mainly based on the publications of private societies and of individuals. That on Holland is derived from a memorandum supplied by the Dutch Labour Department, and the information relating to the United States was obtained through H.M. Embassy at Washington.

The details contained in the report will not offer much encouragement to those who find in profit-sharing and copartnership a main line of attack upon social problems. The total number of schemes in operation in France, according to the definition adopted by the Board of Trade, appears to be between 70 and 80. At the end of 1900 there were in Germany 21 profit-sharing schemes. Later figures are not available for that country. There are eight or ten schemes in Switzerland, perhaps a somewhat larger number in Holland, twenty-five or thirty in the United States, and a very few in Canada. It is difficult to give exact figures with regard to profit-sharing schemes in any country because of the frequency with which such schemes are abandoned and the constant tendency for a genuine scheme in which there is a *previous agreement* as to the basis upon which profits are distributed to degenerate into, or to be confused with, arrangements under which employers give arbitrary gratuities or a bonus on output.

The profit-sharing movement evidently has a more substantial hold in France than in any other country. The report contains an interesting comparison of the types of business in which profit-sharing schemes prevail in France and in this country. Of the 141 British schemes in existence in June, 1913, 34 belonged to the gas industry, 15 to the chemical, glass, and pottery trades, 14 to food supply trades, 13 to the printing and publishing trades, and 8 to the textile trades. The 114 French businesses which the French Profit-sharing Association regarded as embodying the profit-sharing principle (all of which did not, however, comply with the criteria of profit-sharing adopted by our own Labour Department) included 17 insurance companies, 14 engineering firms, 10 printing and publishing businesses, 8 firms in the building trade, and 8 engaged in food supply. The German schemes include, in addition to the well-known Zeiss works, the Halle machine works, and the Rodach pottery works, a few agricultural estates. The most interesting of the German experiments in agricultural profit-sharing was started by the economist von Thünen in 1848 in Mecklenburg, but came to an end in 1896. It is interesting to note that between 1869 and 1873 the Swiss Federal Post Office experimented in profit-sharing. "Among the profit-sharing schemes, properly so called, of the United States, the most characteristic is that under which employees are granted special facilities for investing in the undertaking to which they are attached. These facilities are generally accompanied by various devices intended to deter the beneficiaries from (*a*) leaving the company's service or (*b*) selling the special shares to outsiders." The United States Steel Corporation is given as an example of such stockholding arrangements.

The detailed descriptions of the different individual schemes in the various countries are admirably clear, and enable the reader to trace the innumerable variations in the methods of allotting a share in profits to employees—*e.g.*, payment in cash, in shares, or in pension rights; and payment in proportion to wages, length of service, or length of service and wages combined. There is, of course, also great variety in the conditions under which employees obtain a right to any share in profits, and in the proportion of them who can or do obtain the privilege. Only one or two of the schemes dealt with appear to give the workers even a vestige of genuine control in the conduct of the business. The report contains a full bibliography of profit-sharing, both at home and abroad, and some interesting appendices. One of these deals with share-payment on fishing boats in France. Another describes the attempt of the French Government to head off demands of the miners for a minimum wage by giving legislative encouragement to profit-sharing. The French miners replied by demanding collective profit-sharing—the shares to be held by the Unions and the Unions to be represented on the directorates of the mining companies. Another appendix brings up to date the information contained in the Report of 1912 on Copartnership and Profit-sharing in the United Kingdom.

THE WORLD'S FOOD SUPPLIES

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries: Agricultural Statistics, 1912. Part V. Colonial and Foreign Statistics. With Index to the whole volume for 1912 (Vol. XLVII.). Cd. 7271. 7¼d.

Mr. Rew's report, which forms the introduction to the present volume, is a brilliant statistical essay. Its two main themes are: (1) the question as to how far the world's agriculture is meeting the increased demand for its products; (2) the relative productivity of the agriculture of the chief European countries. In 1910 there was an increase of 15 million acres in the area under wheat in some 25 of the chief agricultural countries; and in 1911 a similar increase of 8 million acres. This increase received a check in 1912. There was an increase of 2·7 million acres in 13 States, including the United Kingdom, but a decrease of 9·3 million acres in the remaining ten (including 3·1 millions in Russia and 3·7 millions in the United States). In the British Empire the total decline amounted to 2·3 million acres, or more than double the increase shown in 1911. There was also a small decline in the barley and oats acreage of the world in 1912, and a small increase in rye acreage. During the decade 1901–11 there was an increase in the acreage under wheat in the Empire of 45·5 per cent., and in population of 6·6 per cent. For Europe the corresponding figures are 17·1 and 15·6, and for Algeria, Argentina, Japan, Siberia, U.S.A., and Uruguay 19·9 and 20·6. There appears to have been a positive decline in the numbers of the meat-producing stock of the United States between 1901 and 1911, with the possible exception of pigs. There were, however, substantial increases in the live-stock of Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile, and we may look to the two former countries to make good declining supplies of meat from other sources. "In Asiatic Russia there has been a marked expansion in the numbers of stock, while there are signs that South Africa may before long become a factor of importance in regard to meat supply. But on the whole this hasty survey of the figures does not suggest any immediate probability of a period of lower level of prices for meat." Taking the comparative figures of live-stock and population within the Empire, we find that "in the United Kingdom and in Canada population has advanced upon both cattle and sheep, but pigs have increased. In other parts of the Empire live-stock, except as regards sheep in New Zealand and cattle in Natal, have increased more rapidly than men and women. The increase in South Africa is noticeable." "The decline in the European stocks of cattle and sheep in relation to population is very marked. Only in Denmark, Hungary, Netherlands, and Norway have cattle increased, while the increase of sheep is confined to Hungary, Netherlands, Norway and Servia. There has been a general increase of pigs in relation to population, except in Denmark, France, Russia, Servia, and Switzerland."

Mr. Rew's comparisons between the productivity of English and Continental agriculture are masterly and merit careful study. "Roughly approximate as these figures are, they appear generally to indicate that the expenditure per acre on manual and horse labour together on the cultivated area is less in this country than in any of those with which comparison is made. It would, of course, be necessary to know the relative application of the third kind of labour—mechanical—before any true comparison of the actual expenditure of labour on the gross output could be made." And, although "one jolly Englishman" may not be the equal of "two skinny Frenchmen and one Portugee," is it not possible that the alleged differences in output capacity between the Yorkshire and the South-country rural labourer might find their counterpart in a comparison between the rural workers of England with those of some other countries?

The remainder of the volume consists of detailed tables of acreage under crops, produce and live-stock in the different countries of the world, together with a large number of statistics of agricultural prices extracted from foreign and colonial official publications.

EMPIRE AND HEALTH

Colonial Reports: Annual. 1912 and 1912–13.

Blackwater Fever in the Tropical African Dependencies. Reports for 1912. Cd. 7211. 3s. 1d.

Perusal of the annual reports of our tropical Crown Colonies leads to the reflection that it is not improbable that the final justification for the extension of British rule over these districts may lie in what is now being done to combat malaria and other diseases transmitted by insect agency. In Nigeria the native cure for sleeping-sickness is "the application of raw rubber to an incision in the neck which exposes the gland; rubber and gland together are torn off when the rubber has coagulated."

XUM

With such primitive methods we may usefully compare Sir Ronald Ross's "Report on the Prevention of Malaria in Cyprus" (Cd. 7174, price 2½d.). As a measure of the prevalence of malaria a census of the children in the island was taken for the purpose of ascertaining how many had enlarged spleens. Just before the beginning of the malaria season of 1913 the spleen-rate was found to be 21·82 per cent., and the average size of spleen in the children affected was 1·78 times the normal size. The methods of combating malaria are (1) the use of mosquito nets, wire gauze, etc., which are suitable for public institutions and the well-to-do; (2) treatment by quinine to destroy the malarial parasites, but as this requires the administration with unfailing regularity of varying doses amounting to 500 grains per adult, the results are disappointing owing to the difficulty of getting people to take the drug properly; (3) mosquito reduction by draining away the breeding waters of anopheline mosquitoes, or in so treating them that the larvæ are killed. The advantage of this last method is that "it enables Government to do the work almost without reference to the public, because the large majority of breeding pools and anophelines occur in the roads and the fields, and not in private premises. Moreover, no rational person objects to the reduction of mosquitoes, which saves him much annoyance as well as much sickness; while the reduction of every species of mosquitoes besides anophelines tends to reduce other maladies. This method has also the very great advantage that it compels the authorities to keep a strict sanitary watch upon the whole of the area under them."

In Kingston, Jamaica, the death-rate from malaria has declined from 6·9 per cent. of the deaths in 1909-10 to 1·2 in 1912–13; this is due to the drainage of swamps, but in addition 11,422 ounces of quinine were issued for use in institutions or for sale at post offices at ½d. per packet. In Grenada "a most decided improvement in the general health of the people living near, especially as regards malarial fever," has followed on the completing of drainage schemes. In British Guiana 33,748 cases of malarial fever were treated in the sugar estates hospital in 1906–7, but in 1912–13 the number fell to 7,384, the fall being due to enforcement of the use of screened vats in Georgetown and to the distribution of quinine. In Mauritius the hospital cases of malarial fever fell from 5,071 in 1908 to 2,554 in 1912, and the number of cases of splenic hypertrophy from 1,193 to 481; in the former year the spleen-rate of 31,000 children was 34·1 per cent., and the average spleen was 2·54 times the normal size. British Honduras also registers a decline in the importance of malarial fever as a cause of death; in 1906 the mortality therefrom was 9·6 per thousand, in 1912 5·3 per thousand. In Southern Nigeria the reclamation of swamps is being undertaken, and in Northern Nigeria much progress in sanitation is being made in those provinces which possess effective native administrations. In Uganda "anti-malarial gangs under control of the District Medical Officer are employed at the principal stations and engaged in the inspection of compounds, the removal of old tins and receptacles likely to contain larvæ, the filling up of small excavations, and clearing rank vegetation. The drainage of swamps near the larger stations is being gradually carried out as funds allow."

With regard to other diseases the record of Uganda in regard to sleeping-sickness is so admirable that "with the exception of a portion of the White Nile all the principal trade routes may now be said to be free from danger of infection to travellers." The total deaths from this disease fell from 1,546 in 1910 to 932 in 1912, and in the Buganda Province alone from 8,003 in 1905 to 82 in 1912. "The absence of a cure and the continued presence of the carrier (*Glossina palpalis*) in the infected areas give continual cause for anxiety, and unremitting precaution is necessary to keep the disease in check." The clearing of fly-infected jungle has been extended, and in three districts 14,000 people in all were removed without friction from infected areas to a safe distance. Deaths from plague in Uganda were 3,734 in 1911 and 3,100 in 1912; the spread of the disease beyond the endemic areas was prevented by the segregation of cases, the destruction of rats, and the inoculation of 13,458 natives with Haffkine's serum; it is interesting to observe that "the natives took kindly to, and even asked for, inoculation." In Trinidad no case of bubonic plague has occurred since April, 1912; and as an active campaign is still waged against rats, and bacteriological examination shows no signs of plague in the slaughtered animals, it is hoped that the disease has been exterminated. Smallpox is endemic in Northern Nigeria, but both there and in Southern Nigeria and in Uganda vaccination is increasing, and in Uganda the deaths fell from 1,044 in 1911 to 519 in 1912; in Northern Nigeria the prejudice amongst the natives against vaccination is decreasing. The disease of yaws prevails where water is scarce and sanitary precautions are neglected; 10,866 persons were treated in Jamaica in 1912, and salvarsan was employed in 349 cases, of which 327 were discharged cured. In the Trinidad and Tobago hospitals the use of salvarsan "continues to give very favourable results" in the treatment of yaws. Tuberculosis is "an increasingly prevalent disease in the West Indian Colonies," and a conference of delegates from England and the chief West Indian islands was held at Trinidad to discuss methods for its prevention and treatment. The legislature of Trinidad is now considering proposals for carrying out the measures advocated. Ankylostomiasis also gives much work to the bacteriologist, but in British Guiana it is declining owing to improved sanitary measures. Lastly, coming nearer home, to Malta, "Mediterranean fever, which showed a continuous decrease for the last six years, has given a slight increase both in the number of cases reported (374) and in the deaths (38) among the civil population" during 1912–13; during the year 14,537 goats and sheep were examined by the sanitary authorities, of which 420 were found infected and destroyed.

The Blue Book on blackwater fever contains reports from twenty different medical officers, dealing with sixty-eight cases. Voluminous medical details of each case are given, including the history of the attack, the course, temperature chart, treatment, etc. At the end of the book is a series of elaborate maps. No attempt has been made to summarise the information from the various districts or officers, or to set out any general comments, or to draw any comprehensive conclusions. The volume does not appear to have been edited by a medical man. Probably the reports have been thrown together, more or less as received, by a lay official without power of discriminating between the essential and the non-essential. As a mass of raw material it possesses some value, but it is doubtful whether it was worth issuing to the public in its present form. A much smaller report would have sufficed for general purposes, while the details and maps might have been reserved for those engaged in research work, or submitted to institutions, such as that at Liverpool, for the study of tropical diseases. Individually, the reports are good and show no signs of that slackness we are so often assured is inseparable from a State medical service.

BRITISH MALAYA IN 1912

Colonial Reports: Annual. No. 789. Straits Settlements. Cd. 7050-30. 5½d.

Report for 1912 on the Federated Malay States. Cd. 7208. 10d.

Reports for 1912 on the States of Kedah and Perlis, Kelantan and Trengganu. Cd. 7209. 10d.

Prosperity, still advancing by leaps and bounds, is the keynote of these reports. Even the once poverty-stricken Straits Government now has regular surpluses—£400,000 on a revenue of a million and a half for 1912. It still feels the burden of the amazing award given by Sir M. Hicks-Beach's commission of arbitration on the value of the harbour works it had to buy from the Tanjong Pagar Company. But of its Public Debt of £7,000,000 about £5,000,000 is covered by the debt to it of the Dock Board, on which the latter is able to pay full interest, a million and a quarter represents reproductive harbour works, and most of the balance has been lent to the municipalities of Singapore and Penang.

The Federated Malay States have accumulated investments of seven and a half millions in place of a public debt, and for 1912 the revenue was five millions against an expenditure of three and a half. The value of their foreign trade showed an increase of 27 per cent.; for the Straits the figure is 10·8 per cent. And the advance is not in finance only. Both countries, having made opium a Government monopoly for the purpose of restricting its use, raised the price of the drug by some 25 per cent., with the usual result of temporarily diminishing consumption. Both have abolished public gambling with the enthusiastic consent of the audible part of Chinese public opinion, and without resistance from the rest, sacrificing the considerable revenue which the gambling farms had produced Previously only Chinese were admitted to the licensed gaming houses.

Some light is thrown on the subject of banishment dealt with in our editorial notes on January 14th. Of 218 Chinese banished from the Federated Malay States "17 had been connected with unlawful societies, 9 had committed offences connected with morphia, and the rest were all dangerous or habitual criminals" (Report, p. 13). We are not informed as to whether all or any of these "habitual criminals" had ever been convicted in open court. The threat of banishment, by the way, has been used once or twice in the past to rid the country of Englishmen guilty of disgraceful moral offences.

The following is the only reference to the subject in the Straits report: "The practice of banishing habitual criminals has been continued. 446 were banished in 1912."

The death-rate among Tamil estate coolies has dropped by about one-third, as compared with 1911, in each of the four Federated States, the 1912 figures being 34, 37, 114, and 78 per mille. For the whole population of the country the rate is 33½ (of which 16½ are deaths from malaria), and in the Straits 39. The two highest figures are terrific, though they are for States in which the coolie populations are only a fraction of those of the States where the death-rate is normal. The fall can only be attributed to stringent regulations about hospitals and sanitation enforced by the Government (moved thereto, we understand, by a threat from India that recruiting for the Federated Malay States would simply be stopped if the statistics did not improve); and as these regulations are being continually tightened up, further progress may be expected. The Tamil coolie suffers disastrously from drunkenness. The Federated Malay States Report describes an attempt to prohibit the sale of spirits to him as a failure, but further steps are to be taken.

Kedah (with its dependency Perlis), Kelantan and Trengganu were transferred from Siamese overlordship to ours in 1909 in return for a partial surrender of extra-territorial rights in Siam. Kedah is moving rapidly towards the Federated Malay States system of administration by English officers. Kelantan has made a beginning in the same direction. Trengganu, the only country which has a vigorous Malay Government of its own, is likely to keep it for some time. Our suzerainty is almost as nominal as was that of Siam: the British Agent has no power, and no functions except to sit with a Malay judge in a joint court which deals with the principal civil and criminal cases, and to offer advice which, unlike that of his fellows elsewhere, need not be taken. The system of debt bondage, once universal in Malaya, survives in full force in Trengganu. Kedah abolished it in 1912. The Adviser in the latter country states that his Government has been considering the establishment of a public rice mill to break up the Penang rice combine, which was partly responsible for the recent disastrous rise in the price of rice throughout the peninsula, a rise of something like 50 per cent. We believe that nothing has yet been done in this direction. Since 1912 the price of rice has dropped back a good deal, but not nearly to the old level.

THE CONSULAR REPORTS

Diplomatic and Consular Reports. 1912, 1912-13.

The reports for Norway and Dunkirk show up certain defects of British traders. Out of 55 railway, Government, and municipal contracts in Norway in 1912 only ten were secured by British firms, of which 5 were coal contracts, and therefore a foregone conclusion; in 9 out of the 30 State railway contracts no British tenders were received, 5 tenders did not comply with the regulations as to samples, 2 were doubtful as to the inclusion of British goods, and in 16 the prices were too high. "Doubtless there are times when British firms are too much engaged on large orders to find it worth while to compete in the Norwegian market. Nevertheless it is felt that British manufacturers do not take full advantage of the friendly feeling prevailing towards them in Norway. As one man put it: 'We would prefer to do business with your country if only your countrymen's prices were not so prohibitive' (*i.e.* compared with Continental prices)." The Consul at Dunkirk urges the necessity of British traders who come to that port calling on him for interchange of ideas. "A delegation representing one of the great local administrations of London itself visited Dunkirk for the purpose of examining the conditions prevailing at the port, and, after their departure, the local authorities communicated with the Consul on the subject of their visit, and were, not unnaturally, astonished to find that the Consul knew nothing whatever about the visit, although it was purely one connected with trade and merchant shipping." In another case the Consul received from the Foreign Office instructions to assist a deputation from another similar organisation, but "in course of time, instead of receiving the expected visit from his fellow-countrymen, the Consul received an enquiry from one of the French administrations visited by the party, asking him for the names and qualifications of the gentlemen concerned, because, as it appeared, communications had been difficult owing to ignorance of English on the one hand and of French on the other of the two parties to the interview in question." And yet foolish writers dilate on the uselessness of our Consular Service! The whole report is eloquent on the difficulties of fitting a modern harbour into a mediæval fortress town, and some interesting suggestions are made as to the possibility of developing a cheap passenger service between the industrial districts of Eastern France and the corresponding centres in the North of England and Scotland.

Despite the handicaps of the Italian and Balkan wars, "Smyrna stood out surprisingly well." Cotton goods formed about one-fourth of the imports in 1912, and of that trade the United Kingdom secured some 70 per cent., and Italy, whose competition is increasing, about 17 per cent. The prices of figs for export ruled high; "this was in some measure due to the Smyrna Fig Packers' Combine, which worked for the first time in 1912, and prevented the cutting of selling prices which competition had produced in previous years. How far this combine will be a permanent influence for good in the fig trade can only be tested by results; it is estimated that 75 per cent. of the fig business is in its hands. . . . Its original capital of £200,000 was raised to £250,000, and as a consequence of the profits gained on the first year's working it is extending its operations to bring in firms representing 25 per cent. of the sultana business, while an increase of its capital to £400,000 has been authorised." Thus the trust movement spreads.

In April, 1763, an agreement was made with the Sheikh of Bushire whereby "no other European nation was permitted to settle at Bushire as long as the English had a factory there." One hundred and fifty years later, in 1912–13, the United Kingdom had almost one-half and India about 23 per cent. of the import trade of that port (which aggregated £1,047,000), and, respectively, 43·5 and 18·4 per cent. of the export trade of £701,000. About one-sixth of the weight of cotton goods imported into Persia came by way of Bushire, and four-fifths of these came from the United Kingdom. The imports of cotton goods from all countries into Persia rose from 14,679 tons in 1908–9 to 19,187 tons in 1912–13; but, while Russia's share increased from 3,579 tons to 8,319 tons, that of the United Kingdom declined from 9,734 tons to 7,989 tons. The imports of cottons into Bushire were valued at £578,386 in 1912–13, of which Manchester's share was £479,669. "Stocks of cottons were overloaded, and nearly all importers have had to sell large quantities at a loss; traffic has been stopped on the main route for considerable periods; communication with the smaller provincial centres has been cut off from the capital; crops have failed to a large extent; and general pessimism has prevailed, and still prevails, among Persian and European merchants as to the prospects of order and the authority of the Persian Government being restored in the interior." The Bushire report gives a painful account of the anarchy prevailing in South Persia in 1912, and this is reinforced by the details furnished by the Consul at Isfahan in his report. There has since, however, been some improvement, which may be measured by the decline in the rates of mule-hire to Shiraz from £8 in October, 1912, to £5 5s. 5d. in March, 1913. "It can thus be said, with some certainty, that if the improvement in security on the trade route to Isfahan in general caravan traffic and in the outlying districts of Fars, which was apparent by the end of March, 1913, continues, not only will Bushire trade recover its position as a large supplier of the Isfahan and Yezd markets, but the total trade via the port should be far more extensive than ever before." Taking all things into account, it is a considerable achievement that in 1912–13 the imports into Bushire were practically at the high-water level of 1907–8, while the exports from that port increased in the five years from £498,000 to £701,000. The establishment of a Government forwarding department and the arrangement between merchants as to a mule-hire agreement are important developments from the point of view of the inland import markets.

Including trade through the Spanish port of Melilla and across the Algerian frontier, imports into Morocco have increased from £4,190,000 in 1910 to £8,048,000 in 1912, while in the same period exports from Morocco have advanced from £2,267,000 to £3,082,000. The excess of imports may be attributed to army supplies and to material for works of development. Imports from the United Kingdom rose in the three years from £1,173,000 to £2,523,000; those from France from £1,774,000 to £3,262,000, the increase being mainly across the Algerian frontier, and consisting in part of non-French goods; the Spanish share rose from £686,000 to £959,000; and the German from £303,000 to £605,000. German trade interests in Morocco are thus of the slenderest, but the compensation which they obtained for the extinction of their political claims appears considerable, judging by the report of the British Vice-Consul for the French Congo. The extension of German territory, in his opinion, "practically cuts the French colony into three parts, and hence its importance from a commercial standpoint can hardly be exaggerated. . . . Another effect has been to give the German colony an outlet on the sea close to the French port of Libreville, and increased commercial competition with the French colony will undoubtedly result therefrom." Such developments will, however, take some time, and the pressing problem on the Congo caused by the fall in the price of rubber will have to be settled first.

The difficulty of attempting by political arrangements to divert the natural lines of trade is exemplified in the case of Samoa. Only the German language is permitted in the courts, though English is still allowed in the custom house and post office. The total import trade has increased from £173,000 in 1910 to £251,000 in 1912, the imports of general merchandise from Australasia having risen from £99,000 to £152,000, and those from Germany from £34,000 to £41,000. Out of the total entrances of 74,430 tons of shipping at Apia, 72,442 tons were British, 1,564 American, and 424 German. There are 7 German plantation and shipping companies with a capital of £341,000, and 4 British with a capital of £185,000. On the other hand, the United States takes 98 per cent. of the exports from Hawaii and supplies 82 per cent. of the imports, partly because the trade is duty-free and partly on account of the geographical position of the islands. From 85 to 90 per cent. of the exports consist of sugar, all of which goes to the States, but a large trade in tinned pineapples has grown up since 1901. A large acreage has been planted with pineapples by small growers, chiefly Japanese, but "the unsatisfactory financial situation in the United States, and the uncertain political situation in Europe, have adversely affected the market even for tinned pineapples."

IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION

Memorandum and Statistical Tables showing the Production and Consumption of Iron Ore and Pig Iron, and the Production of Steel, in the United Kingdom and the principal Foreign Countries in recent years, and the Imports and Exports of certain classes of Iron and Steel Manufactures (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 402 of 1912–13). H. of C. 284. 7d.

The iron ore production of the world in 1912 is estimated to have amounted to 152 million tons. The United States is credited with 55 million tons, Germany with 32 millions, France with nearly 19 millions, the United Kingdom with nearly 14 millions, Spain with nearly 9 millions, and Russia with 8 millions. The figures for 1908 were: United States 36, Germany 24, France 10, the United Kingdom 15, Spain 9, and Russia 5 millions. Production in the United Kingdom was curtailed in 1912 owing to the miners' strike. But it has been more or less stationary for five years both here and in Spain, while in the United States, Germany, and France the output is continually being increased. Germany, Belgium, and the United Kingdom are now, as in 1908, the principal ore-importing countries. But whereas in 1908 Germany imported net 4·6, Belgium 2·8, and the United Kingdom 6 million tons, in 1912 Germany imported 9·6, Belgium 5·6, and this country 4·6 million tons. As an ore-exporting country France is now nearly on a level with Spain, which still heads the list in this respect. In 1912 the excess of exports of ore over imports was 8·2 million tons in the case of France and 8·3 million tons in the case of Spain. It must, of course, be remembered that the yield of iron from the different ores varies from 20 to 65 per cent. of the weight.

The world's output of pig-iron in 1912 was 72 million tons. The United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom together account for seven-ninths of the total output of the world. The fluctuations in the output in the ten principal producing countries are very remarkable. In 1908 it amounted to 47·4 million tons, being 20 per cent. lower than in 1907. The figures (in million tons) for 1909 were 59·2, for 1910 64·4, for 1911 62·4, and for 1912 71·4. Iron enters into foreign trade mainly in forms other than pig-iron. On the average of the past five years only 14 per cent. of the pig-iron produced in this country has been exported; while only 4 per cent. of that produced in other countries has been exported. On account of the relative smallness of the foreign trade in pig-iron the amount available for consumption in each country does not differ greatly from the amount produced. The figures (in million tons) were in 1908 16·0 for the United States, 11·6 for Germany, 7·8 for the United Kingdom, and in 1912 29·6 for the United States, 16·7 for Germany, and 7·7 for the United Kingdom.

The world's output of steel for 1912 is estimated at between 71 and 72 million tons, or close on the output of pig-iron from which steel is made, but besides pig-iron large quantities of scrap and iron ore are used in the manufacture of steel. The United States was responsible for 31·3, Germany for 17·0, and the United Kingdom for 6·9 million tons of steel. In the United States and in Germany the production of open-hearth and of Bessemer ingots has increased in the past three years. But in England, while there has been a marked increase in the output of open-hearth ingots, the quantity of Bessemer ingots produced has declined.

The import and export tables show an increase for nearly all classes of iron and steel products in the case of England, Germany, and the United States alike. The sections of this admirable memorandum dealing with each country separately include, in addition to statistical tables, a number of terse paragraphs describing different features of the iron and steel industries. The table illustrating the gradual concentration of the British pig-iron industry is particularly noteworthy. The brief accounts of the German steel and pig-iron selling associations are masterly summaries. The present position of the United States Steel Corporation is described in an extract from the report of the Commissioner of Corporations.

THE WORLD'S MINES

Mines and Quarries: General Report with Statistics for 1911. By the Chief Inspector of Mines. Part IV.—Colonial and Foreign Statistics. Cd. 7217. 1s. 8d.

There were in 1911 nearly six and a half million persons employed at mines, quarries, and mineral workings in the whole world. Of these 2,260,096 were employed within the British Empire, 1,179,101 in the United Kingdom, 207,835 in the Federated Malay States, 239,382 in India, 297,925 in South Africa, 242,154 in Austria-Hungary, 360,506 in France, 1,002,841 in Germany, 288,995 in Japan, 418,107 in Russia, and 999,268 in the United States. The world's output of coal is estimated at 1,186,807,157 metric tons, of which 276,255,096 were raised in the United Kingdom, 234,521,254 in Germany, and 450,168,890 in the United States. Of the total output of 716,865 kilos of fine gold 410,477 is credited to the British Empire, 256,642 kilos to South Africa, 77,346 to Australia, 42,775 to Mexico, 64,958 to Russia, and 145,784 to the United States. The British Empire yielded 61,485 out of the 116,416 metric tons of tin produced. Petroleum is the only one of the ten principal minerals in the case of which the proportion raised within the Empire is relatively insignificant. Only 985,545 out of the 45,591,752 tons raised came from British possessions. It should be noted that all these figures relate to the estimated amount of minerals contained in or obtained from the ore raised.

The tables dealing with the fatal accident rates in the mines and quarries throughout the world are of particular interest. During 1910 the death-rate per thousand employed in British coal mines was 1·70, in German coal mines 1·95, and in the coal mines of the United States 3·79. The corresponding figures for 1911 were 1·17 (British), 2·08 (German), and 3·55 (American). The South African gold mines appear to have an exceptionally high accident death-rate. The figure for the Transvaal was 4·53 per thousand in 1910 and 4·33 in 1911, and for Natal 4·37 in 1910 and 11·11 in 1911. Japan, the United States, and New Zealand seem to suffer from a much higher accident rate in coal mines than Great Britain and Germany. But it is not safe to judge accident rates from a record of two years. It would be easier to form definite judgments if the Home Office would publish the average accident rate in each country over a period of ten years as well as the rate for the last two years.

SCOTTISH FISHERIES

Report of the Scottish Departmental Committee on the North Sea Fishing Industry. Part I. Cd. 7221. 3s. 1d.

This Committee was appointed in 1911 to "enquire and report upon the character and national importance of the inshore and deep-sea fisheries of Norway and other countries engaged in the North Sea fisheries, and the efforts made for the development of the fishing and fish-curing industry," including fishery administration, facilities for research and for education and training of fishermen, the various means of capture employed, and the methods of obtaining capital. They were also to advise as to any action that might be taken. In the fishery cruiser *Norna* the Committee visited Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Kiel, the Prussian Baltic ports, and Holland. The report contains a sketch of the physical conditions of the North Sea and adjacent seas, illustrated by two large charts, and then gives a survey of the fisheries of the different countries visited, showing, with appropriate statistics, their character and extent. In order there follow accounts of the fishery administration, scientific research and educational facilities in each of the different countries, and a general survey of modes of fishing. Under each heading recommendations are made, and on certain of these there is a minority report. Appendices contain notes on the fishing fleets of different countries, particulars of State loans, translations of fishery laws, and statistics as to the fishing industry of Scotland and of other North Sea countries over a series of years.

The recommendations are: (A) The reconstitution of the Fishery Board of Scotland (at present nominated) as a regular department with a statistical and intelligence department, a chemist to advise on fish-curing, representatives in the chief

foreign markets, and a fund for development of fishing: (B) A series of popular scientific lectures to fishermen on growth and migration of fish, fishing gear, immature fish, etc., a short course of practical demonstrations in the Marine Laboratory, the institution of a fishery museum in a large fishing centre, and the publication of an official journal: (C) A "nautical course" in day schools; continuation classes for young fishermen in navigation, mechanical propulsion, motors, business procedure, cookery, ambulance, etc., with a hired steamer for practical exercises; central navigation schools for training of teachers; direct instruction of fishermen studying for Board of Trade certificates, and in motor engineering, etc.: (D) Written agreements between fishermen and owners should be prescribed. The majority of the Committee do not think that a State loan should be formed to aid fishermen in the herring industry to acquire boats in whole or in part, or to fit them up with oil engines; they hold that "it cannot be maintained that there has been an arrest of development of the Scottish fisheries because of lack of Government aid. In fact, evidence was given that there was a real risk of over-development." Two dissentient members out of the Committee of five, however, hold that State assistance should be given for the installation of oil engines, especially in the case of inshore fishermen with boats under 45-feet keel, and they propose an annual grant of £10,000 for ten years and a system of guaranteeing bank advances to fishermen for this purpose.

COLONIAL OIL-SEEDS AND FATS

Colonial Reports: Miscellaneous. No. 88, Imperial Institute. Selected Reports from the Scientific and Technical Department. V.—Oil-seeds, Oils, Fats, and Waxes. Cd. 7260. 8½d.

This part contains all the more important reports on oil-seeds, oils, fats, and waxes made to Colonial, Indian, and other Governments in the ten years 1903–12. The experimental work was mainly done in the department, but a number of external experts and firms co-operated by conducting technical trials and giving valuations. The results of the chemical analysis are given, together with estimates of the probable selling value of the products, and particulars, where available, of the imports into the United Kingdom. For example, Para rubber seed kernels from the Straits Settlements and Malay States have been tested on several occasions. They give an oil which could be used as a substitute for linseed oil in the preparation of paints and varnishes, the manufacture of rubber substitutes, linoleum, and waterproofing materials, and probably for the manufacture of soft soap; its estimated value was £20 a ton, linseed oil being £22. Meal from the kernels could not be used as a feeding stuff, but cake made from kernels after the oil was expressed was tested on cattle in 1911 with satisfactory results; its value should be about equal to linseed cake. When the demand for kernels as seed for new plantations declines, there will be the possibility of creating a demand for the oil and cake. Estimates of the cost of collecting and shelling enough seed to produce a ton of kernels vary from £2 9s. 4d. to £11 13s. 4d., the latter being a prohibitive cost. Suggestions are also given as to machinery and further feeding tests. The value of such investigations in the development of our tropical possessions and in the extension of our supplies of raw materials needs no emphasising.

AN INDIAN POLICE PROBLEM

East India (Police): Correspondence relating to the Procedure in regard to Confessions of Persons accused of Criminal Offences. Cd. 7234. 6d.

An obstinate scandal of the Indian police system is handled in this correspondence, which embodies the opinions of the provincial governments and various legal authorities as to the evidential value of confessions made before trial by accused persons. Great prominence has lately been given to the question, particularly in connection with the numerous cases of torture by police officers exposed during recent years in the Indian courts. The Government of India asked the local authorities whether the recording of confessions before trial facilitated the ends of justice; whether, if so, more stringent safeguards against abuse were required, and whether the actual procedure of magistrates in recording confessions was susceptible of improvement. The opinions here gathered, both judicial and executive, are in the main favourable to the retention of the practice, which over a long period has been assailed by the Indian Press. In summing up, the Government of India intimates its readiness to adopt measures calculated to discourage the police from placing reliance on confessions, and thus neglecting to pursue definite clues, to diminish the risk of ill-treatment of accused persons, or to give surer guarantees that the confessions made are really voluntary and are carefully recorded. Among improvements suggested are that police officers should be forbidden to question a prisoner, that an accused who has confessed should in no circumstances be returned to police custody, that only first-class magistrates having jurisdiction should be allowed to record confessions, that when the confession is recorded no member of the investigating force should be present, and so forth. In defending the established procedure or proposing modifications the local governments and High Court judges contend that there has been a great improvement in the character of the Indian police; but none the less every instructed reader will recognise that the Blue Book as a whole amounts to a distressing admission of the vices of criminal procedure in India. Thus Mr. Justice Beaman, of the Bombay High Court, says:

> "Every sessions judge of any experience, who knows the native, would upon rigorous self-examination, I think, admit that the average mofussil criminal would never confess if left entirely to himself. In fact, he confesses literally in shoals. The sessions judge of experience, who knows the mofussil police as well as he knows the native, in his heart knows very well WHY."

Here is one out of dozens of passages in this strictly official correspondence revealing the knowledge of judges and executive officers that the Indian police are given to the ill-treatment of accused persons in custody.

INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION

Eleventh Report by the Board of Trade of Proceedings under the Conciliation Act. 1896. H. of C. 89. 8½d.

During 1913 the Chief Industrial Commissioner's Department of the Board of Trade dealt with 99 cases under the Conciliation Act—a larger number than in any previous year. The numbers of cases dealt with in each of the years 1906–1912 have been 20, 39, 60, 57, 67, 92, and 73. As usual, about half the disputes in which intervention took place—in this year 53—involved a stoppage of work. "In the years immediately following the passing of the Act application for the services of the Department came mainly from one side only (generally from the workpeople), but in recent years there has been a tendency for the majority of applications to be made jointly by the parties or by organisations representing them. During 1913 joint applications were received in 55 cases, while in 16 cases applications were received from the workpeople only, and in 7 cases from the employers only." The increase in the cases dealt with was mainly due to unrest and wage movements in the building industry, which accounted for 31 out of the 99 cases. In six cases recourse was had to Courts of Arbitration.

The report contains a tabular summary of cases dealt with under the Act and detailed summaries of the more important cases. The latter are somewhat colourless. One misses sometimes references to essential technical features of the trades in which disputes occurred, when a knowledge of these is essential for the understanding of the points at issue. The Board of Trade must, of course, avoid arousing the susceptibilities of either side in its record of conciliation work. But a more realistic description might surely be given in some cases without danger. There is a gleam of humour for those who are familiar with certain types of Trade Union branch meetings in the statement that at a meeting of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union in Dublin on August 23rd, 1913 (with reference to the dispute on the tramways), "a decision in favour of a strike appears to have been arrived at." The Southampton Demarcation Committee of the Shipwrights and Joiners applied to the Board of Trade to appoint an arbitrator to settle "whose work it is to make, repair, fit and fix deck boxes or lockers . . . barrier rails on troop ships . . . sling boxes, shoots, skids, trestles for loading or unloading cargo . . . hand (or Irish) barrows for ships' coaling purposes . . . all life rafts not used as deck seats . . . electrical ventilating fans. . . ." Mr. H. G. Wells satirised the attitude of the British Trade Unionist on demarcation questions somewhat unsympathetically many years ago in his *First Men in the Moon*. It would certainly require considerable metaphysical subtlety to find a logical justification for Alderman Smith's, or, indeed, for any other possible decisions on some of these questions. The accounts given of the piece-rate awards in the boot trade afford an excellent illustration of the complexity of factory organisation in that industry. An attempt on the part of the Board of Trade to mediate in a dispute between a York newspaper and the

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journalists employed by it was repelled by the directors of the company.

There are now 325 Voluntary Conciliation Boards known to the Department, of which all except 15 deal with particular trades. The full text is given of the 121 clauses of collective agreements and Conciliation Board rules which provide for the reference of disputes to the Board of Trade. The alterations made during 1913 in the awards under the Mines (Minimum Wage) Act are also reprinted in this volume, the original awards having been reproduced in the preceding annual report. It should be remembered that proceedings under the Conciliation Act only represent a portion of the work of mediation in industrial disputes. For a summary of this work as a whole reference must be made to the Annual Report on Strikes and Lock-outs.

THE STATE AND HORTICULTURE

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries: Report of the Horticulture Branch, 1912–13. Cd. 7232. 2s. 8d.

The Horticulture Branch of the Board of Agriculture was formed in 1912 and this is its first annual report. Gardening is only a small part of horticulture. "Three important industries stand out prominently as occupying important positions in the trade of this country, whose interests have not hitherto been entrusted to any Department in the State—viz., the nursery trade and the commercial cultivation of hardy fruit and vegetables in the field and under glass. All of these trades are in a flourishing condition. They are carried on with great enterprise and vigour, and, as a general rule, with a high degree of skill, by the persons engaged in them." Growers, however, are mostly ignorant of the diseases of plants, and the Intelligence Division of the Board has for some years undertaken the investigation of diseases and insect pests and has advised gardeners and nurserymen how to deal with them. This work has grown to such an extent that a special and expert branch of the Board has been constituted. Other subjects of interest to horticulturists are dealt with in separate reports, issued by other branches of the Board, dealing with education, statistics, small holdings, fertilisers, etc. It is an error to suppose that England is and must always be an importer of vegetable produce. "In many branches of horticulture, as well as in some kinds of agriculture, a large export trade is carried on, the value of which in some years greatly exceeds the value of the cattle, sheep, and pigs sent abroad. This trade shows every sign of increasing, and, given favourable conditions, it is probable that it will in course of time assume considerable proportions. The competition with the traders of other countries is, however, severe. One of the conditions most likely to further the interests of exporters is a reputation for freedom from disease." During the winter of 1911–12 large quantities of potatoes were shipped to Canada from districts in the United Kingdom where wart disease was prevalent, and the result was the closing of the American and United States markets. The United States in 1912 also passed a law under which regulations were framed forbidding the importation of plants unless they are accompanied with a Government certificate to the effect that they have come from a specified nursery, which has been inspected and found to be free from insect pests and fungus diseases.

A great deal of work is thus thrown on the officers of the Branch, not only in the work of certification but in obtaining "an accurate knowledge of the chief pests present in this country, their distribution, and their relative intensity in different parts of the country," and then in investigating methods of combating them. The report deals with the following diseases scheduled under Orders of the Board: American gooseberry mildew, wart disease of potatoes, large larch sawfly, vine louse, Mediterranean fruit fly, tomato and cucumber canker; and also with "silver leaf" and diseases of bees. Six maps are given showing the distribution of gooseberry mildew, one for the distribution of wart disease, and one for the distribution of the large larch sawfly in the Lake district. It would have been a useful addition to this report if the Orders of the Board had been incorporated with it. In two cases prosecutions were undertaken for failure to notify the gooseberry mildew and for sending diseased berries to market. The importation of diseased berries is also prevented. The year 1912 was a bad year, being so wet, and 27,000 visits were made by inspectors in connection with the mildew alone. In the case of wart disease of potatoes, occupiers of infected premises were warned not to grow susceptible varieties of potatoes on those places in future, and were required to obtain a licence permitting them to grow potatoes at all. It is noteworthy that Staffordshire has been a neglected county owing to the failure of the local authority to appoint an inspector. The details of the report give a very favourable impression of the activity of the officers of the Board in furthering the interests of horticulturists.

We may add, as a footnote to the report, that in 1912 our exports of potatoes were valued at £1,432,000; of seeds other than oil-seeds at £754,000; and of plants, roots, and bulbs at £106,000.

TRADE UNION POLITICS: CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE AND CREDIT

Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for 1912. Part A.: General Report. H. of C. 89. 2s.

Eighteenth Annual Report by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies of the Proceedings of the Registrars under the Building Societies Acts for 1912. Part I.: Report. H. of C. 90. 3d. Part II.: Abstract of Accounts. H. of C. 90–I. 1s. 2d.

The matter of greatest topical interest in the Friendly Societies Report is the account of the proceedings under the Trade Union Act of 1913. Up to January 16th, 1914, the Chief Registrar had received returns of ballots with regard to political action from 25 Unions. There was a majority in favour of such action in every case. The total number of votes cast in favour was 473,880, and against 323,661. The votes rejected amounted to 22,001 (including 20,223 miners' votes). The figures of some large Unions were as follows: Carpenters and Joiners, for 13,336, against 11,738; Engineers, for 20,586, against 12,740; Boot and Shoe Operatives, for 6,085, against 1,935; Miners' Federation, for 261,643, against 194,800; Amalgamated Weavers, for 98,158, against 75,893. The Railway Clerks showed the largest proportionate majority—15,496 to 1,340. Eighty-nine Unions other than those which had voted had applied to the Office with a view to carrying out the procedure under the Act.

These reports of the Chief Registrar deal with an extraordinary variety of forms of mutual aid, including Friendly Societies, Co-operative Societies of all kinds, industrial and agricultural, Traders' Societies, Building Societies, Trade Unions, Workmen's Compensation Schemes, Loan Societies, Railway Savings Banks, and Scientific and Literary Societies. They also include a record of the proceedings of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies in his judicial capacity as the authority for deciding disputes in connection with the Post Office and other Savings Banks. When some sociologist arises to write a general history of social combination in modern industrial society, he will find in the reports of the Chief Registrar not the least valuable of his sources of information. But we are constantly reminded in these reports of the incompleteness of the system of registration established by law in the case of various classes of associations. Sometimes direct compulsion is applied. Sometimes (as in the case of Trade Unions and Scientific and Literary Societies) registration is voluntary, but is encouraged by financial or other facilities or inducements which are offered. Some of the statistics relate to 1911 and some to 1912. The following table, abstracted from the General Summary, shows the membership and funds of all classes of registered provident societies in 1911 (*i.e.*, before the Insurance Act had come into operation):

Class of Society.	No. of Returns.	No. of Members.	Funds.
			£
Friendly Society Orders and their Branches	20,638	2,795,000	29,123,000
Ordinary Friendly	6,189	3,979,017	22,735,568
Collecting	64	7,504,273	10,279,911
Cattle Insurance	63	5,356	8,912
Benevolent	72	32,466	367,206
Workmen's Clubs	1,337	338,001	509,600
Loan	623	188,002	1,305,135
Agricultural Credit	181	14,602	28,469
Miscellaneous, specially authorised	171	81,308	926,914
Coal Clubs	2	1,998	192
Industrial and Provident ...	3,346	2,992,570	46,446,307
Building	1,670	605,209	48,443,461
Trade Unions	648	2,378,957	6,357,222
Workmen's Compensation Schemes	31	68,849	76,290
Friends of Labour Loan Societies	218	30,964	232,976
Railway Savings Banks	19	71,595	6,858,192
Total	35,272	21,088,247	£173,679,355

During 1912 146 ordinary Friendly Societies were added to the register, while 664 were dissolved, of which 414 had been established for over 50 years—one London society dating back to 1687.

In 1912 the membership of Building Societies amounted to 608,737 persons. Receipts during 1912 were £22,355,236, amounts advanced on mortgages £8,438,256, and liabilities (about 65 millions) exceeded assets by £56,438. The Registrar advises the few remaining unincorporated societies to avail themselves of the advantages which incorporation would give. The reports include some very interesting statistics with regard to Friendly and Building Societies in the Colonies and Building and Loan Societies in the United States. In each of the Australasian States from 58·81 to 69·26 per cent. of the population aged 15 to 65 are members of Friendly Societies. There were 5,937 Building and Loan Associations in the United States in 1910, with a membership of 2,216,912, and assets of £189,113,761. The assets of the 191 Building Societies of the Australian Commonwealth amounted in 1911-12 to £5,534,915, and the liabilities to £5,247,596

THE ARMY AND ITS FINANCE

General Annual Report on the British Army for the year ending September 30th, 1913. Cd. 7252. 6d. See also other papers on Army in Classified List.

According to the White Paper (Cd. 7255), the position of the Army is as follows:

—	Establishment.	Strength.
February 1st.		
Regular Army:		
Officers	10,547	10,431
N.C.O.'s and Men	233,218	223,995
Total	243,765	234,426
Special Reserve:		
Officers	2,882	2,422
N.C.O.'s and Men	75,832	62,133
Total	78,714	64,555
January 1st.		
Territorial Force:		
Officers	11,233	9,366
N.C.O.'s and Men	301,167	239,819
Total	312,400	249,185

These figures are somewhat more recent than those given in the Army Estimates themselves, but the difference in any case is not great. In the Army Estimates we have the total Regular forces divided into home and colonial on the one hand and the Indian establishment on the other. From this we find that the total establishment of all ranks, exclusive of India, is estimated at 186,400 for 1914–15, an increase of 800 on the year before. The establishment of British regiments serving in India is 75,896. The most striking feature in these figures is the differences between establishment and strength. This point cannot be dealt with in so short a notice, but the official explanation will be found on pages 2 and 4 of the short "Memorandum relating to the Army Estimates for 1914–15" (Cd. 7253). Further information and suggestions for reform, as far as the Special Reserve is concerned, are given in the "Interim Report of the Committee on the Special Reserve" (Cd. 7250), for the Territorials in the General Remarks on page 4 of the "Annual Return of the Territorial Forces for 1913" (Cd. 7254). The explanatory "Memorandum" is a particularly clear statement, much more satisfactory than the parallel "Statement" accompanying the Navy Estimates. One interesting point may be noticed, taken itself from the report of Sir Launcelotte Gubbins on the "Health of the Army for 1912," also recently published. Compared with the averages for 1889–1898, admissions to hospital have fallen from 997·3 per 1,000 to 426·3, deaths from 9·03 to 3·26, the ratio constantly sick from 59·85 to 23·72. These figures, which include India and the Colonies, show very clearly how enormously the health of the Army has improved since the period before the South African War.

The Report on the Army shows that there were 28,091 recruits in the twelve months, a decline of 2,225. "Whilst recent increased competition by the Royal Navy and the facilities for getting work now afforded by Government Labour Exchanges have no doubt had an adverse effect on the numbers coming forward for enlistment in the Army, the poor results achieved may certainly in the main be attributed to the continual activity in trade and emigration." Of the recruits offering there were rejected on medical grounds 29·93 per cent. in 1908–9; 31·73 per cent. in 1909–10; 27·12 per cent. in 1910–11; 23·62 per cent. in 1911–12; and 21·42 per cent. in 1912–13. "Unskilled labour" furnished 19,433 would-be recruits; "skilled labour," 10,371; carmen, porters, shop assistants, clerks, etc., 11,135; professional classes, 307; and boys, 1,741. Of the first three classes from 20 to 21 per cent. in each case were rejected. The number of men who left the service in 1912–13 was 28,766, and employment was found for 16,299, of whom 16,073 obtained posts under Government Departments, in the police, on railways, and under the Port of London Authority and London County Council. In 1913 there were 23,724 ex-Army men in the railway service.

Like the Navy, the estimates for the Army are divided into 15 votes (together with the vote for numbers, "Vote A"): pay; medical service; Special Reserve; Territorials; quartering, transporting, and remounts; supplies and clothing; ordnance and general stores; armaments and aviation; works; education; miscellaneous; War Office; and the three non-effective votes—pensions and half-pay, etc., for officers; pensions for men; civil superannuation and compensation. Here, too, is the same disproportion between the elaborate statement of wages and pay, which takes up the greater part of the Estimates, and the scanty information on other points. More details, however, are given by the War Office than by the Admiralty, and more trouble seems to have been taken to make them intelligible. Strangely enough, there is no statement of gross expenditure, the Appropriations in Aid being scattered through the various votes and never collected into one summary table. There is also no summary statement of the contributions of India to the Army funds. For the rest of the Empire the total sum contributed is £667,000. The table of military expenditure in the colonies shows some strange anomalies. Mauritius, for instance, for which an expenditure of £80,900 is incurred, contributes £30,000 towards this outlay; Bermuda, with an expenditure of £138,000, Jamaica, with £95,000, South Africa, with £665,000, contribute nothing. As in the Navy, the expenditure under Employers' Contribution is scattered under the several votes. For 1912–13 a table is given in the Appropriation Accounts showing a sum of £37,668 for health insurance and £1,204 for unemployment insurance. The insurance contributions paid under works and maintenance are not included in this table "owing to disproportionate amount of clerical work involved."

The Production Account of the Ordnance Factories in 1912–13 was £2,658,548—*i.e.* Army, £979,660; Navy, £1,440,561; India, £55,772; Colonies, £86,737; Replacement Orders, £95,818. Wages amounted to £1,218,891, salaries to £28,411, and materials to £1,437,161. The net capital at end of year was £2,269,339—viz., buildings, £1,192,609; machinery, £725,623; land, roads, gas mains, etc., £351,107. Particulars are given of all the articles produced by all the departments, showing their number or quantity and cost. The production is also shown separately for the various services, Army, Navy, etc.

For the purposes of the Military Works Acts, 1897-1903, £20,810,500 was authorised to be raised, and £16,361,936 has been spent, £2,473,216 out of the surplus income of 1896–7 and the remainder for loans and Exchequer Bonds; the annuities, expiring in 1926, for the extinction of £11,332,408 loans amount to £709,379. The expenditure has been as follows:

—	Home.	Foreign.	Sundry Expenditure.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Defence works ...	1,710,957	1,159,765	3,698	2,876,420
Barracks and camps	5,402,183	4,676,860	5,341	10,084,384
Ranges, etc. ...	2,619,994	29,638	1,604	2,651,236
Staff and contingencies	—	—	—	749,896

PARLIAMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

(Received since February 23rd, 1914.)

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES: Annual Report by the Chief Veterinary Officer for 1912. Cd. 6737–I. 2½d.

Contains exciting accounts of the vigorous measures taken to deal with the numerous outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in 1912, including mighty slaughterings of cattle infected or suspected of infection. There were also 16,203 reported outbreaks of swine fever, of which 2,927 were confirmed—an increase on the number confirmed in 1911.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES: Agricultural Statistics, 1912. Vol. XLVII. Part V. Colonial and Foreign Statistics. Cd. 7271. 7½d. (Review, p. 6.)

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES registered as Specially Authorised Societies under the Friendly Societies Act of 1896, with the Date of Registry, Number of Members, and Total Assets; also of Irish Credit Societies, and a Statement showing the varieties of Land Banks and Societies registered to deal with Small Holdings and with Loans for Agricultural Purposes. Return. H. of C. 84. 1½d.

The banks registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act which are conducting rural business are mostly of recent establishment, and are operating on a small scale. Of the 47 Agricultural Credit Societies in England and Wales, 40 have used the Model Rules of the Agricultural Organisation Society. There are 216 registered societies whose primary object is to acquire land for small holdings. The rules of 197 of these had been approved by the A.O.S. A number of the remainder were concerned with garden allotments rather than small holdings.

NORTH SEA FISHING INDUSTRY, Report of the Scottish Departmental Committee on. Part I. With Appendices. Cd. 7221. 3s. 1d. (Review, p. 9.)

FISHERY BOARD FOR SCOTLAND: Fifth Report (Northern Area) on Fishery and Hydrographical Investigations in the North Sea and Adjacent Waters. Errata. Cd. 6950.

Census and Population.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS registered in England and Wales in 1913. General Abstract. Cd. 7299. 1d.

[Contains no comparative figures. Estimated total population in middle of 1913 was 36,919,339.]

EMIGRANTS' INFORMATION OFFICE: Report for 1913. Cd. 7212. 2½d.

Contains particulars of publications issued, summaries of Board of Trade emigration figures, accounts of co-operation with Colonial immigration departments, and statistics of the work of emigration societies. Warnings have been issued with regard to emigration to the Argentine, and legal proceedings have been taken against persons who induced British emigrants to enter that country under false pretences. (The emigrants had to be repatriated at the expense of the British Government.) The Editor of Publications has visited Canada. He says that, "with the exception of school teachers, practically the only educated women who should emigrate to Canada are the sisters who go out to keep house for brothers on the prairies."

PASSENGER MOVEMENT FROM AND TO THE UNITED KINGDOM during February in 1913 and 1914. Return. Cd. 7285–I. ½d.

Civil Services, Army, and Navy.

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS, 1912–13. H. of C. 55. 3s. 11d. (To be reviewed.)

CIVIL SERVICES: Estimates for 1914–15. Class I., Public Works and Buildings: H. of C. 132–I., 8d. Class II., Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments: H. of C. 132–II., 1s. 5d. Class III., Law and Justice: H. of C. 132–III., 1s. 2d. Class IV., Education, Science, and Art: H. of C. 132–IV., 7½d. Class V., Foreign and Colonial Services: H. of C. 132–V., 5d. Class VI., Non-Effective and Miscellaneous: H. of C. 132–VI., 5½d. Class VII., Old Age Pensions, Labour Exchanges, Insurance, etc.: H. of C. 132–VII., 3½d. Class VIII., Revenue Departments: H. of C. 132–VIII., 1s. 1d. (To be reviewed.)

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS: An Estimate showing the several Services for which a Vote on Account is required for the year ending March 31st, 1915. H. of C. 135. 1d. (To be reviewed.)

POST OFFICE: Supplement to Estimates, Revenue Departments. H. of C. 0.8. (To be reviewed.)

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES: An Account showing the Gross Amount Received and Expended on account of the Telegraph Service during the year ended March 31st, 1913; a Statement additional to the above Account; and Statements of Account in respect of the Telegraph and Telephone Services for the year ended March 31st, 1913; and certain other statistics; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. H. of C. 94. 4d. (To be reviewed.)

CIVIL CONTINGENCIES FUND: Showing (1) the Receipts and Payments in connection with the Fund in the year ended March 31st, 1913; (2) the Distribution of the Capital of the Fund at the commencement and close of the year. H. of C. 100. 1½d.

£390,750 was paid in to the fund during the year, and the balance on March 31st, 1913, was £287,905 17s. 2d.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER: Receipts and Disbursements in year ended December 21st, 1913. H. of C. 97. ½d.

Receipts were £108,916 6s. 9d., including £61,050 from rents and "profits of courts" and £36,873 12s. 6d. from mining royalties, dues and rents; £61,000 was paid to the Keeper of His Majesty's Privy Purse.

DUCHY OF CORNWALL: Receipts and Disbursements in 1913. H. of C. 136. ½d.

Receipts were £164,114 11s. 11½d., including £114,053 12s. 10½d. rents and profits of courts, and £16,216 15s. annuity received "in lieu of Tin Coinage Duties, Post Groats, and White Rents." Payments of £85,719 2s. 6d. made on account of His Majesty.

NAVY ESTIMATES FOR 1914–15, with Explanations of Differences. H. of C. 134. 3s. 8d. (Review, p. 4.)

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1914–15: Statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty explanatory of the Navy Estimates, 1914–15. Cd. 7302. 2½d. (Review, p. 4.)

NAVY: SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE FOR 1913–14. H. of C. 112. 1d. (Review, p. 4.)

NAVY: APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT, 1912–13, including Store Accounts. H. of C. 92. 1s. 1d. (Review, p. 4.)

RETURN SHOWING THE FLEETS of Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Italy, Austria-Hungary, United States of America, and Japan on January 1st, 1914 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 537 of Session 1913). H. of C. 113. 7½d. (Review, p. 4.)

NAVY: VICTUALLING YARD MANUFACTURING ACCOUNTS, 1912–13: Annual Balance Sheets, 1912–13. H. of C. 149. ½d.

Chocolate (valued at £35,048), flour (£12,957), bread (£2,988), cakes (£16,386), and hair beds (£2,716) were manufactured at Deptford, Malta, Gosport, and Plymouth. The cost per lb. of chocolate was 6·59d.

ROYAL NAVAL TORPEDO FACTORY, Greenock. Annual Accounts for 1912–13. H. of C. 150. 1d.

REPORT ON THE BRITISH ARMY for year ending September 30th, 1913, with Annual Report on Recruiting. Cd. 7252. 6d. (Review, p. 12.)

ARMY: STATISTICS RELATING TO THE STRENGTH of the Regular Army, Special Reserve, Territorial Force, and Territorial Training and Musketry. Cd. 7255. ½d. (Review, p. 12.)

ANNUAL RETURN OF THE TERRITORIAL FORCE FOR 1913. Cd. 7254. 7d. (Review, p. 12.)

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1914–15. H. of C. 131. 1s. 10d. (Review, p. 12.)

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1914–15, Memorandum of Secretary of State for War relating to. Cd. 7253. 1d. (Review, p. 12.)

ARMY: APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT, 1912–13, including Report on Store Accounts. H. of C. 3. 1s. 1d. (Review, p. 12.)

MILITARY WORKS ACTS: Account showing amount expended and borrowed under the Acts to March 31st, 1913. H. of C. 7. 2d. (Review, p. 12.)

ARMY: SPECIAL RESERVE, Interim Report of Committee on. Cd. 7250. 1½d. (Review, p. 12.)

ARMY: ORDNANCE FACTORIES: Accounts for 1912–13. H. of C. 4. 1s. 9d. (Review, p. 12.)

ARMY: IRISH COMMAND, Correspondence relating to Recent Events in. Cd. 7318. ½d.

MILITARY SAVINGS BANKS: Account of Gross Amount of Moneys Received and Paid by National Debt Commissioners on account of the Fund for Military Savings Banks from September 19th, 1845, to January 5th, 1914. H. of C. 122. ½d.

Education.

BOARD OF EDUCATION: England and Wales. I. List of Certified Schools for Blind, Deaf, Defective, and Epileptic Children on January 31st, 1914. II. List of Schools and Classes for Blind, Deaf, Defective, and Epileptic Students Recognised under the Regulations for Technical Schools, etc., for year ending July 31st, 1913. Cd. 7300. 2½d.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT, and Medical Treatment and Care of Children attending Special Schools: Regulations under which Grants will be made by Board of Education during year ending March 31st, 1915. Cd. 7314. ½d.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND): Code of Regulations for Day Schools, 1914. Cd. 7303. 3d.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) FUND, 1913–14: Table showing Sum allotted to each Secondary Education District in accordance with terms of the Minute of June 28th, 1912. Cd. 7306. ½d.

COMMISSIONERS OF NATIONAL EDUCATION IN IRELAND: Appendix to the Seventy-ninth Report for year 1912–13. Cd. 7192. 4d.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN: Annual Statistical Report of the University Court for 1912–13. H. of C. 70. 1½d.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW: Annual Statistical Report by the University Court for 1912–13. H. of C. 71. 2½d.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT: University Court Ordinance No. XLV. H. of C. 72. ½d.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD: Statute made by the Governing Body on October 9th, 1913. H. of C. 125. ½d.

COLLEGE CHARTER ACT: Copy of Application received from the Most Honourable the Marquess of Crewe, K.G., for the establishment of an Institution to be known as "The School of Oriental Studies, London Institution," together with a copy of the Draft of the Charter applied for. H. of C. 4. 1d.

Imperial and Foreign Affairs.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL OPIUM CONFERENCE, held at The Hague, July, 1913: Correspondence. Cd. 7267. 2½d.

"A large majority of the Governments of the world have signed the Convention to regulate the trade in opium, morphia and cocaine, several have already signified their readiness to ratify, and only a very small minority, though representing powerful interests, have decided to postpone ratification in the hope of first securing the co-operation of the Governments which have not signed."

DOLLAR IN THE EAST: Copy of Treasury Minute, dated October 14th, 1913, with regard to mode of issuing the Dollar in the East. H. of C. 124. ½d.

TREATY SERIES: No. 3 of 1914. Renewal for Five Years of Arbitration Agreement between United Kingdom and Spain, signed at London, February 27th, 1904. Cd. 7274. ½d. No. 4 of 1914. Renewal for Five Years of Arbitration Agreement between United Kingdom and Italy, signed at Rome, February 1st, 1904. Cd. 7275. ½d.

Diplomatic and Consular Reports.

ANNUAL SERIES: 5258, Greece (Thessaly in 1912), Cd. 7048–75, 4d.; 5259, Russia (Vladivostock and District in 1912), Cd. 7048–76, 7d.; 5260, Congo, 1912, Cd. 7048–77, 3½d.; 5261, Persia, 1912–13, 7048–78, 1½d.; Cd. 5262, Brazil (Para), 1910–12, Cd. 7048–79, 2½d.; 5263, Persia (Bunder Abbas), 1912–13, Cd. 7048–80, 3½d.; 5264, Persia (Arabistan Province), 1912–13, Cd. 7048–81, 1½d. (To be reviewed.)

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES: 687, Argentina, Wine and Fruit Industries of. Cd. 7049–2. 1½d. (To be reviewed.)

Colonial Reports.

ANNUAL SERIES: 793, Leeward Islands, 1912–13, Cd. 7050–34, 4d.; 794, St. Lucia, 1912–13, Cd. 7050–35, 2½d. (To be reviewed.)

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES: 88, Imperial Institute. Selected Reports from the Scientific and Technical Department. Cd. 7260. 8½d. (Review, p. 10.)

India.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN FINANCE AND CURRENCY: Final Report, Cd. 7236, 9d.; Evidence, Vol. II., Cd. 7237, 1s. 4d.; Appendices to Final Report (Third Vol. of Appendices), Cd. 7238, 1s. 2d.; Index to the Two Vols. of Evidence and to the Three Vols. of Appendices, Cd. 7239, 9d. (Review, p. 2.)

LOANS raised in England, under the Provisions of any Acts of Parliament, chargeable on the Revenues of India. Complete Return. H. of C. 67. ½d. Ditto, raised in India. H. of C. 68, ½d.

Ireland. (See also under other headings.)

GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND BILL, Return showing Government Proposals in connection with. H. of C. 143. ½d.

RETURN showing the Acts of Parliament relating solely to Ireland under which public money has been provided by way of Grant and Loan respectively, and the amount expended under the provisions of each such Act up to March 31st, 1913. H. of C. 301. 1d.

No summary given.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION: Return of Proceedings during December, 1913. Cd. 7287. 2½d. Return of Advances in May, 1913. Cd. 7231. 8½d.

RETURN OF EVICTIONS and also of Tenancies Determined in quarter ended December 31st, 1913. Cd. 7297. ½d.

Labour and Industrial Regulation.

PROFIT-SHARING AND COPARTNERSHIP ABROAD: Report. Cd. 7283. 8½d. (Review, p. 6.)

CONCILIATION ACT, 1896: Eleventh Report by the Board of Trade. H. of C. 89. 8½d. (Review, p. 10.)

INDUSTRIAL POISONING, ACCIDENTS and Dangerous Occurrences during 1913 under Factory and Workshop Acts, 1901–11, and Notice of Accidents Act, 1906. Preliminary Tables of Cases. Cd. 7309. 1d.

There were 34 deaths from industrial poisoning in factories and workshops in 1913 (50 in 1912), and 1,309 fatal industrial accidents (1,260 in 1912). Non-fatal cases of poisoning, 625 (656 in 1912); non-fatal accidents, 176,820 (155,750 in 1912). Cases of lead poisoning in pottery trades, 62 (11 deaths) as against 80 (14 deaths) in 1912.

DEATHS OF SEAMEN AND FISHERMEN reported in year ended June 30th, 1913. Cd. 7248. 9d. (To be reviewed.)

WAGES AND EFFECTS OF DECEASED SEAMEN, Account of the Sums received and paid in respect of, in year ended March 31st, 1913. H. of C. 82. ½d.

£18,243 received from masters of vessels, etc. £15,930 paid to relatives and representatives of deceased seamen.

SEAMEN'S SAVINGS BANKS (MONEY ORDERS AND TRANSMISSION OF WAGES): Account and Statement. H. of C. 106. 1d.

£74,155 received and £80,224 paid by the Banks in 1912–13. Seamen's Money Orders for £433,276 issued.

MERCANTILE MARINE: Return showing the Legal Obligations of the Owners of Merchant Vessels trading under the Flags of Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Russia, Denmark, Austria-Hungary, Netherlands, Greece, and Belgium towards their Captains, Officers, and Seamen with regard to the following: Old Age Pensions, Pensions to Widows and Orphans, Accident Compensation, Sunday Labour, Daily Hours of Labour at Sea and in Port, Payment for Work performed in Excess of Hours of Labour, Medical Treatment, Accommodation and Passages of Distress Seamen; also including in such a Return the Regulations of these different countries for the Preservation of Discipline on board their Merchant Ships. H. of L. (35). 9½d.

A valuable return, obtained by Lord Muskerry, bringing up to date a similar return obtained in 1908 (H. of L. 14). (To be reviewed.)

Local Government.

LOCAL TAXATION, England and Wales: Final Report of Departmental Committee. Cd. 7315. 1s. (Review, p. 1.)

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND) ACCOUNT, Return showing Total Payments into and out of, for financial year 1912–13. H. of C. 73. ½d.

A million and a half was paid to the Irish Local Authorities under various Acts.

ROSYTH HOUSING: Report by Dr. Currie, Medical Officer for County of Fife, and excerpt from Minutes of Meeting of Public Health Committee of Dunfermline District Committee of Fife County Council, held on October 22nd, 1912. H. of C. 147. 1d.

Contains details of the Rosyth housing scandal as it was eighteen months ago.

GAS UNDERTAKINGS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES, Return of, for year ended March 31st, 1913. H. of C. 138. 6d.

GAS UNDERTAKINGS, other than those of Local Authorities, Return of, for 1912. H. of C. 137. 10d.

The companies possessed 520 undertakings with capital of £93,779,994, and sold 126,001,893 cubic feet to 4,062,289 consumers. Corresponding figures for Local Authorities: 306, £43,681,976, 72,485,145. and 2,813,860.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES: Report by the Board of Trade on Proceedings under Weights and Measures Acts. H. of C. 148. 4½d.

The inspectors employed by local authorities made about ten million examinations of weights, measures, and weighing instruments during 1912 (or 1912–13), and also marked them with stamps in about thirteen million cases. Stamping fees amounted to £50,258. There were 2,190 convictions for improper use of weights and measures. The Board of Trade verified a large number of standards, examined 100 candidates for inspectorships nominated by local authorities, sanctioned the accommodation for inspectors provided by several local authorities. A House of Commons enquiry into the prevention of short weight in the sale of goods in packets is recommended. Since the publication of the Report a Select Committee has been appointed.

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES): Statements for January, 1914, H. of C. 111, 1d.; for February, 1914, H. of C. 111–I., 1d.

National Health Insurance.

ACCOUNT showing the Nature and Amount of the Securities held by the National Debt Commissioners at December 31st, 1913, as Investments for Moneys, forming part of the National Health Insurance Fund, paid over to them by the Insurance Commissioners for England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, under Section 54 (3) of the National Insurance Act, 1911. H. of C. 140. ½d.

Police, Law, and Crime.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS, ENGLAND AND WALES, 1912: Part I., Criminal Statistics. Cd. 7282. 1s. 6d. Part II., Civil Judicial Statistics. Cd. 7267. 2s. (Review, p. 3.)

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE IN IRELAND: Return of Receipts and Payments in respect of the Funds of Suitors in the said Court, in the year ending September 30th, 1913; together with

a Statement of Liabilities and Assets, and Particulars of Securities in Court, on September 30th, 1913. H. of C. 99. 1d.

Five and a half millions of securities are held by the Accountant of the Supreme Court. About two millions was paid in and paid out during the year.

DUBLIN DISTURBANCES COMMISSION. Minutes of Evidence and Appendices. Cd. 7272. 3s. 8d.

The Commission held 18 sittings and examined 202 police and 79 civilian witnesses, on 21 series of disturbances between August 20th and September 4th, and on September 21st, 1913. The appendices consist of a deposition by Inspector Lawlor and a return of offences "in connection with the strikes." From the latter it appears that between August 19th and September 30th 685 offences were reported to the police and 354 persons were made amenable; of these, 178 were sent to prison and 96 were fined, 20 persons dealt with summarily were bailed, 23 were acquitted on indictment, 31 were discharged, dismissed, or sent to reformatories, etc., and 12 cases were pending.

Taxation and Finance.

BANK OF ENGLAND: Annual Accounts of Exchequer Bills, and other Government Securities purchased, and Amount of Balances of Sums issued for the Payment of Dividends, etc. H. of C. 79. ½d.

BANK OF ENGLAND: Copy of all Applications made by the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Governor and the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England for Advances to Government, authorised by Parliament, from January 5th, 1913, to January 5th, 1914. H. of C. 115. ½d.

NATIONAL DEBT (Savings Banks and Friendly Societies): An Account of the gross amount of all Sums Received and Paid by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt on account of Banks for Savings and Friendly Societies from their Commencement at August 6th, 1817, to November 20th, 1913. H. of C. 96. 1d.

Since 1817 the Commissioners have received 206·6 millions from the Trustees of Savings Banks and 10·6 millions from Friendly Societies, for which they have paid 103·1 and 4·8 millions in interest. The Government is now liable to the Savings Banks for about 55 millions and for about a million to the Friendly Societies.

NATIONAL DEBT ANNUITIES: Account of the Gross Amount of all Bank Annuities and any Annuities for Terms of Years transferred, and of all Sums of Money paid to the National Debt Commissioners; and the Gross Amount of Annuities for Lives and for Terms of Years which have been granted for the same, and Contracts for Payments on Death which have been made. H. of C. 153. ½d.

Trade, Commerce, and Shipping.

PANAMA CANAL—TONNAGE MEASUREMENT: Rules for the Measurement of Vessels for the Panama Canal. (Proclamation by the President of the United States of America.) Cd. 7305. 2½d.

PILOTAGE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM for the years 1910, 1911, and 1912 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 247 of Session 1911). Returns. H. of C. 139. 2s. 9d.

During 1912 143,919 British and 84,821 foreign ships were piloted at a charge of £613,638. The 2,252 pilots and 211 apprentices received £551,850 of this sum, and £23,856 went to the Pilots' Benefit Fund.

PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY: Copy of Fourth Annual Report for year ended March 31st, 1913. H. of C. 83. 2½d.

Contains a full account of the strike of 1912 from the Authority's point of view. Nothing is said about the fulfilment of the Authority's obligation to regularise the labour of the Port. The gross revenue of the Authority was £3,350,227. The balance of net revenue was £89,637. Some improvements in dock accommodation are being undertaken. Capital expenditure on new works in 1912–13 amounted to £88,020.

ACCOUNTS relating to Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for each Month during the year 1914. February, 1914. 1s. 6d.

ACCOUNTS relating to the Trade and Commerce of Certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions, including figures received up to February 28th, 1914. H. of C. 126–I. 5½d.

ASSURANCE COMPANIES: Part A., Statements of Life Assurance and Annuity Business in Respect of Life Assurance Business deposited with the Board of Trade under Section 7 of "The Assurance Companies Act, 1909," during the year ended December 31st, 1913. H. of C. 1. 6s. 7d. Part B., Statements of General Assurance Business (excluding Life Assurance Business and Sinking Fund Insurance Business) and of Bond Investment Business. H. of C. 1–I. 5s.

A summary of the figures contained in these volumes relating to Life Insurance (ordinary and industrial) was given in THE NEW STATESMAN for March 21st, 1914. As regards Fire Insurance, the premiums of the British companies were £28,501,285, and the claims paid £14,759,085. Premiums for Personal Accident Insurance were £2,019,728, and claims paid £979,546; premiums for Employers' Liability £3,570,397, and claims paid £2,025,725.

Transport and Traffic.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON MOTOR TRAFFIC. Index and Digest of Evidence. H. of C. 278-Ind. 11½d.

ACCIDENTS caused by Vehicles in Streets during 1913 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 516 of Session 1913–14). Return. H. of C. 133. 2d.

There were 1,743 fatal accidents in England and Wales (as against 1,485 for 1912); 219 in Scotland (179 in 1912); 137 in Ireland (100 in 1912). Non-fatal accidents in England and Wales numbered 39,793 (34,186 in 1912); in Scotland 3,459 (3,219 in 1912), and in Ireland 1,391 (1,192 in 1912).

REPORT BY THE BOARD OF TRADE upon all the Bills and Provisional Orders of Session 1914 relating to Railways, Canals, Tramways, etc., and the Supply of Electricity, Gas, and Water. Cd. 7266. 6d.

It is proposed by 112 Bills to raise a capital of nearly 20 millions for the above purposes. The proposals include the construction of 115 miles of new railway line and 34 miles of new tramways. The capital proposed to be raised for electricity supply is £425,067, that for gas supply £3,340,188, and that for water £2,499,001.

Miscellaneous.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD: Report for year ended March 31st, 1913. Cd. 7304. 1d.

On March 30th, 1913, there were 35,563 names on the Midwives Roll, an increase for the year of 1,938. Of the total, 14,931 have passed the Board's examination. But a large and possibly increasing proportion of trained women do not practise as midwives. The C.M.B. certificate is a valuable asset for the maternity nurse and the candidate for the position of matron at a hospital or infirmary or under the War Office. It is also desired by women intending to practise abroad. Sixty-two women were struck off the roll. It is difficult to prevent the practice of midwifery by uncertified women in some places; and the Local Supervising Authorities are not always active.

THE INEBRIATES ACTS, 1879 to 1900: Report of the Inspector for 1912. Cd. 7281. 3d. (To be reviewed.)

CHARITY COMMISSIONERS for England and Wales: Sixty-first Report. Cd. 7310. 2½d.

The value of new endowments settled in 1913 upon permanent trusts for investment was £890,127. All of this was settled by will, except in the case of a few gifts brought to the notice of the Commissioners. In addition £1,924,086 was left by will for charitable purposes without any requirement for permanent investment. The chief types of charities benefiting under these two forms of endowment were Medical (£307,693 + £775,393); Pensions (£98,100 + £58,213); Almshouses (£70,852 + £6,150); General Benefit of Poor (£58,463 + £8,270); Church of England (£147,639 + £107,865); Ecclesiastical other than Anglican (£89,083 + £135,355). Details are recorded of four wills by which in all £37,000 was left to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The Official Trustees of Charitable Funds hold £32,931,923 in securities, and dispense an income of considerably over a million. There is a steady decline in the proportion of their securities held in British funds, the percentage now being 56·2 of the whole. The Report stimulates reflection on the Dead Hand.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS FOR ENGLAND: Sixty-sixth Report. Cd. 7301. 5½d.

"The net rental of estates produced £1,436,500, dividends and interest £517,800. These amounts, together with the balance brought forward—viz., £401,000—make up a total of £2,355,700. Of this amount the payments to Benefices, Bishops, and Chapters, and other charges absorbed £1,335,500; £404,000 was appropriated as capital for the further endowment of Benefices; £80,000 was transferred to the Minerals Depreciation Fund; £221,700 was applied to writing down securities; and the balance—viz., £314,500—was carried forward." The names of the Commissioners are nowhere stated in the report.

CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSIONERS: Sixty-third Report for the year preceding March 1st, 1914. Cd. 7311. ½d.

The proceedings of the Commissioners during the year consist of the approval of a single transaction—the sale of a reversion.

QUEEN ANNE'S BOUNTY: Annual Report and Accounts of the Governors for 1913. Cd. 7290. 3d.

Income, £285,158; interest and dividends paid to the Clergy, £222,228.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION: Account of the Receipt and Expenditure of the Capital held for the Benefit of Greenwich Hospital during the year ended March 31st, 1913. H. of C. 123. 1d.

Income, £199,531. £136,544 disbursed in pensions to seamen and widows and for education of children. £32,346 paid for Greenwich Royal Hospital School.

BUILDING SOCIETIES: Eighteenth Annual Report by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies of the Proceedings of the Registrars under the Building Societies Acts. Part I., Report. H. of C. 90. 3d. Part II., Abstract of Accounts. H. of C. 90–I. 1s. 2d. (Review, p. 11.)

NATIONAL GALLERY: Report of Director for 1913. H. of C. 98. 2½d.

Particulars of purchases, bequests, donations, and loans.

PUBLIC MUSEUMS, etc.: Return from January 1st to December 31st, 1913, from all Public Museums, including the Tower of London, Picture Galleries, and Botanical Gardens, in or near London and in Edinburgh and in Dublin. H. of L. (16). 1½d.

A return obtained by Lord Sudeley of the number of visitors (general public, special students, and schools), methods of demonstration, etc.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS PRESERVATION ORDER CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL: Special Report from the Examiners under Standing Order 78 with respect to the Ancient Monuments Preservation Order Confirmation (No. 1) Bill. (H.L.) H. of C. 18. ½d.

A complicated point of procedure has been raised through this Bill with regard to the function of the Examiners for Standing Orders in connection with Hybrid and Provisional Order Bills. In view of the fact that no instructions on the point exist, the Examiners apply to the House for guidance.

ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS OF SCOTLAND: Fifth Report of Royal Commission. Cd. 7308. 1d.

Contains list of monuments and constructions in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.

RETURN for January, 1914, showing, with regard to each Parliamentary Constituency in the United Kingdom, the Total Number and, as far as possible, the Number in each Class of Electors on the Register then in force; and also showing the Population in each Constituency (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 478 of Session 1912–13). H. of C. 109. 2½d.

The Parliamentary electors in England and Wales are given as 6,620,219, in Scotland as 862,946, in Ireland as 698,098—total, 8,181,263. Corresponding figures for 1913—6,536,062, 820,343, 701,620, 8,058,025. These figures include duplications due to (1) plural votes; (2) persons registered in respect of different qualifications in the same constituency. The increase for Scotland seems remarkably large as compared with that for England.

ROLL OF THE LORDS SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL in the Fourth Session of the Thirtieth Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. H. of L. (8). 2d.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF THE LORDS Spiritual and Temporal in the Fourth Session of the Thirtieth Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. H. of L. (m. 461).

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